MARVEL
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THE OFFICIAL MARVEL® NEWSMAGAZINE!
MARVEL AGE®
SPECIAL WET AND WILD ISSUE!
67
OCT
ONLY 50¢
PREVIEWS OF NEW PUNISHER, SUB-MARINER, AND WOLVERINE SERIES!
PLUS: A LOOK BACK AT THE CHAMPIONS®

Stan Lee presents

MARVEL AGE®

SALICRUP'S SECTION

A few issues back we ran the ballot for the 1987 COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE Fan Awards, remember? Well, the results are in and here they are:

Favorite Editor—**Mark Gruenwald.** (We were rootin' for ya, Mark!)
Favorite Writer—**Alan Moore, (Chris Claremont** came in second.)
Favorite Penciler—**George Perez (John Byrne** was second and **Todd McFarlane** was third.)
Favorite Inker—**Terry Austin** (What else is new?)
Favorite Colorist—**Glynis Oliver** (Ditto.)
Favorite Cover Artist—**George Perez** (We miss you, George!)
Favorite Letterer—**John Costanza (Tom Orzechowski** came in second.)
Favorite Comic Book Story—WATCHMEN (**Spider-Man** Vs. **Kraven** came in third.)
Favorite Comic Book—JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL (Beating out the X-MEN! Who'da thunk it!)
Favorite Limited Comic-Book Series—WATCHMEN (Would you believe that TRANSFORMERS: HEADMASTERS came in second? Oh, all right, nineteenth. Happy?)
Favorite Original Graphic Novel—BATMAN: SON OF THE DEMON (DEATH OF GROO was second and EMPEROR DOOM third!)
Favorite Reprint Graphic Novel—WATCHMEN (WOLVERINE was third.)
Favorite Character—**Batman (Wolverine** was second.)
Favorite Publication about Comics—AMAZING HEROES (MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE was second. Amazing when you consider that we only cover Marvel!)
Favorite Direct-Sale Title—THE QUESTION (POWER PACK was second.)

And there you have it! We'd like to thank **Don** and **Maggie Thompson**, the hard-working editors of COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE for sponsoring the awards. We'd like to congratulate all the winners and wish 'em continued success. Considering how well DC Comics did in these awards I've got just one question: Where were all those Marvel Zombies when we needed them? We're just going to have to buckle down and try harder this year.

(If you would like to find out more information about COMIC'S BUYER'S GUIDE, the weekly comics newspaper, you can contact them at: COMICS BUYER'S GUIDE, 700 E. State Street, Iola, WI 54990. And be sure to tell 'em Marvel sent you!)

—*Jim* (Came in seventh.) *Salicrup*

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MARVEL

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the Marvel, Epic, Star, and New Universe titles bearing a **November** cover date. A solo series for **Wolverine**! The new **Hulk** battles the new **Thing**! **Kitty Pryde** gets eaten! And that's just a hint of the excitement you can expect next month! Don't risk missing out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles right now!

Thor takes on Grog the God-Crusher! Penciled by Ron Frenz and inked by Brett Breeding.

Titles Shipping July 5
On Sale July 26

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #260—It looks like **Daredevil's** dead, and that leaves Hell's Kitchen without its protector! The **Human Torch** has decided to pick up where **DD** left off. But while the **Torch** may have the power to save the whole world, will he be able to keep one of its darkest parts under control? Written by **Ann Nocenti,** penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

☐**WEST COAST AVENGERS** #38—The **Wacos** take on the weirdest and wildest bunch of baddies on the West Coast—**Nightshift**! The ebon-cloaked **Shroud** is on hand too. . . but whose side is he on? Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

☐**WOLFPACK** Limited Series #4— Just when **Wolfpack** thinks that they have a chance to clean out the drug dealers in their neighborhood, they run into a samurai who is one of the **Nine's** deadliest assassins! "Knights in Shining Armor" is written by **John Figueroa**, penciled by **Ron Wilson**, and inked by **Kyle Baker**. 75¢.

☐**G.I. JOE** #79—The **Joes** may have beaten the diabolical **Dreadnoks'** before, but now, in the heart of a New Jersey swamp, they're on the **Dreadnoks'** home turf—and that could make all the difference in the world! "Dreadnoks Rule" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Marshall Rogers**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

☐**G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS** #15—Can the **Joes** help a band of rebels win their freedom? Don't answer too quickly! Before the **Joes** can come out on top, they've got to take on a whole blamed country! ". . . And Into the Fire" is written by **Larry Hama** and illustrated by **Herb Trimpe**. $1.00.

☐**HEATHCLIFF'S FUNHOUSE** #10—**Heathcliff** is the enemy when the mice living in the **Nutmeg's** house wage an all-out-war for cheese—arming themselves with war toys from **Iggy's** toy chest! "War and Piece of Cheese" is scripted by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐**POWER PACK** #41—It's bad enough that **Power Pack** has to stop a band of gun runners and arsonists. It's even worse that they have to do it without revealing their powers. But it's a downright disaster when **Alex** leaves the team! "Smokeout" is written by **Steve Heyer**, penciled by **Sal Valuto**, and inked by **Stan Drake** and **Donald Hudson**. Direct sales only. $1.25.

☐**EXCALIBUR** #2—**Kitty Pryde**—*eaten*? The **Warwolves** may think they've had a tasty meal, but just wait till they get their just desserts! "A War Wolf Possessed" is scripted by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **Alan Davis**. 32 pages. $1.50.

☐**THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL** #1—At last—see the *full* origin of the **Punisher**, as he battles kidnaping, drugs, and murder! And don't miss a special cameo appearance by everyone's favorite lawyer/Man without Fear, **Matt Murdock**! "An Eye for an Eye: Sunday in the Park" is written and laid out by **Carl Potts**, with finished artwork by **Jim Lee**. Mando Offset paper. $1.50.

☐**WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #44—It's a book tour! It's a blitzkreig! **Peter Parker's** in Las Vegas promoting his photo book on **Spidey**, WEBS, and **Spider-Man** is battling the **Hulk** and the kill-crazed survivalists, **Warzone**! And to add to the mayhem, it's also a cross-over with THE INCREDIBLE HULK #349! Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. $1.00.

☐**THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #237—**Dazzler** and **Rogue**—powerless! And trapped in the clutches of the malevolent **Magistrates**! What's a poor mutant to do? "Busting Loose" is written by **Chris Claremont** and penciled by **Rick Leonardi**. $1.00.

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☐**PSI-FORCE** #25—It's a titanic fight to the finish when the **Psi-Hawk** tackes the Russian paranormal, **Rostow**! And only one will survive! Written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Graham Nolan**, and inked by **Mike Witherby**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐**STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #23—**Hardcase** became a **Morituri** in a search for honor and glory. But when he finally finds them, he discovers that honor and glory are actually two very different things! "Castles of Fire, Rivers of Blood" is written by **James D. Hudnall**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Val Mayerik**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐**THE SUB-MARINER** Limited Series #1—Get set for undersea adventure both past and present as we relive the history of the first super hero of the Marvel Universe. . . and uncover a few never-before-revealed secrets along the way! Written by **Roy Thomas** and penciled by **Rich Buckler**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐**WHAT THE—?!** #4—Here comes more way-out humor and merciless parody! Venture into the depths of the Marble Universe with **Scaredevil**, written and drawn by **Fred Hembeck**, a mutant beach party, written by **Kurt Busiek** and illustrated by **Kyle Baker**, an assortment of maddening **Marvel Balls**, and much, much more! 32 pages. $1.25.

☐**CONAN THE KING** #49—**Conan** has abdicated the Aquilonian throne in favor of his son, **Prince Conn**. But if **Conan** thinks that's going to be the end of the intrigues against him, he's wrong! "Treachery" is written by **Don Kraar**, penciled by **Mike Docherty**, and inked by **Fraja Bator**. 48 pages. $1.50.

☐**TALES OF G.I. JOE** #11—Re-presenting from G.I. JOE #11: America's precious oil supply is in danger when the **Joes** have to fight off **Cobra** in the frozen wasteland surrounding the Alaska Pipeline! "The Pipeline Ploy" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Mike Vosburg**, and inked by **John D'Agostino**. 32 pages. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐**WOLVERINE** #1—Yes, it's the series you've been demanding! There's blood, sweat, and *death* in store when **Wolverine** leaps into savage solo action, doing what he does best! Will Southeast Asia ever be the same now that **Wolverine's** there? Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 32 pages. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐**THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL** #8—The **High Evolutionary** wants the secret of cloning. But when he kidnaps the clone of **Peter Parker's** dead girlfriend, **Gwen Stacey**, he's in for a surprise. Also featuring the dramatic debut of the **Young Gods**! Scripted by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. 64 pages. $1.75.

☐**MARSHAL LAW** #5—After a long and difficult quest, **Marshal Law** uncovers the secret past of the **Sleepman Killer**! But he may not live long enough to put the information to use! Written by **Pat Mills** and illustrated by **Kevin O'Neill**. An Epic Comic. Direct sales only. 32 pages. For Mature Readers. $1.95.

Shipping July 12
On Sale August 2

☐**CAPTAIN AMERICA** #347—When **Right Winger** and **Left Winger** exposed the new **Captain America's** secret identity, they caused the death of his parents! So now, the new **Cap** is looking for **Right Winger** and **Left Winger**, and he's planning to make them pay! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. 75¢.

☐**SOLO AVENGERS** #12—Twice the adventure squeezed into a single comic book!

Hawkeye's bow and arrow may be a match for most run-of-the-mill weapons, but how will he fare against the living weapon known as **Bullet Biker**? Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Jose Marzan**.

Plus: As one of the **Masters of Evil**, the new **Yellowjacket** was a formidable threat to the Avengers. But now, their relationship takes on a whole new light as she tries to become a super heroine! Written by **Howard Mackie**, penciled by **Amanda Connor**, and inked by **Stan Drake**. 75¢.

☐**ALF** #9—It's Independence Day on ALF's home planet of Melmac! But the fur really starts to fly when ALF tries to get the **Tanners** in on the festivities! How can a family of Earthlings hope to deal with "A Melmac Holiday!" Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #308—This month, the summer biweekly action in AMAZING is filled with suspense! **Mary Jane** is missing! And the web-slinger finds more than he bargained for when his hunt for his wife leads him smack into the **Taskmaster**! Written by **David Michelinie**, and illustrated by **Todd McFarlane**. $1.00.

☐**GROO THE WANDERER** #45—**Groo's** swords are in the hands (or is that "paws"?) of his dog, **Rufferto**! What'll happen now that someone smarter than **Groo** wields the blades? Written and illustrated by **Sergio Aragones** and simonized by **Mark Evanier**. An Epic Comic. 32 pages. $1.00.

☐**HEATHCLIFF** #28—**Heathcliff's** into video games—literally! When a short circuit throws him into a video screen, **Heathcliff** has to outwit the computer and find a way out in one of the most creative and spectacularly drawn stories in this series' history! "He's Into Video Games" is written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐**THE NEW MUTANTS** #69—The **New Mutants** have been like a family to each other. But sometimes families fall apart. And the way it's looking, this might be the story that heralds the end of **Magik**, **Sunspot**, **Wolfsbane**, **Cannonball**, **Warlock** and **Mirage** as **New Mutants**! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Bret Blevins**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. $1.00.

☐**ALPHA FLIGHT** #64—**Walter Langkowski's** wife is claiming that he's dead, and wants to inherit his property. It'd be easy to prove her wrong if **Walter** weren't **Sasquatch**—and transformed into a woman! "Where There's a Will, There's a Way" is written by **Bill Mantlo**, layouts by **Jim Lee**, and finished art by **Al Milgrom**. Direct sales only. $1.25.

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☐**D.P. 7** #25—Remember the family that got stuck in the Pitt? Well, the experience has taken its toll by transforming them into the belligerent biomorph, **Famileech**! Even with brand new powers, can **Antibody** beat them by himself? Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐**MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #6—Four biweekly stories means eight times the action each month!

WOLVERINE Part VI: **Wolverine's** foes have been pretty good at dishing it out—now **Wolverine's** going to see how good they are at taking it! Written by **Chris Claremont** and drawn by **John Buscema** and **Klaus Janson**.

MAN-THING Part VI: *A new* horror awaits the **Man-Thing**! Written by **Steve Gerber** and drawn by **Tom Sutton**.

SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG-FU Part VI: **Shang-Chi** uncovers an even darker—and deadlier—mystery. Written by **Doug Moench**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Dave Cockrum**.

Plus: complete in this issue: the **Hulk** goes for a night on the town in Las Vegas. And Las Vegas will never be the same again! Written by **Bobbie Chase** and drawn by **Jeff Purvis**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐**POWERLINE** #3—**Lenore** has to face up to her mother's tragic death as the **Powerline** Kids make their public debut! And could that mysterious figure influencing their lives really be. . . **Doctor Zero**? Written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark**, penciled by **Dave Ross**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. An Epic Comic. 32 pages. Direct sales only. $1.25.

☐**VIDEO JACK** #6—All-out chaos breaks loose when **Jack** and **Daimon** battle for control of the box that guides their flight through the video dimensions! Dimensions switch faster than you can change channels, as writer **Cary Bates** and illustrator **Keith Giffen** welcome guest-artists **Jim Starlin, Ernie Colon, Michael Gilbert, Neal Adams, Berni Wrightson, Walt Simonson, Steve Bissette, Kevin McGuire,** and **Fred Hembeck**! An Epic Comic. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐**SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE** #12—Re-presenting in its entirety from the original SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN MAGAZINE #2: **Norman Osborn** has regained his memory. He remembers **Spider-Man's** secret identity! But even worse—he also remembers that he's the **Green Goblin**! "The Goblin Lives" is written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **John Romita Sr.**, and inked by **Jim Mooney**. A 64-page Marvel Digest. $1.50.

☐**THE AVENGERS ANNUAL** #17—It's the wild wrap-up of the Evolutionary War! But who's going to fight it, considering that the **Avengers** have disbanded? Written by **Walt Simonson**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **Mike Gustovich**. 64 pages. $1.75.

☐**THE 'NAM MAGAZINE** #4—A soldier's view of Vietnam. Re-presenting the gripping stories from THE 'NAM #s 7 and 8: "Good Old Days" and "Tunnel Rat," written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Mike Golden**, and inked by **John Beatty**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 48 pages. $2.00.

☐**THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #153—**Conan** is hired as a bounty hunter. But the price he is being paid cannot match the cost **Conan** will incur! "Blood On The Sand" is written by **Chuck Dixon** and illustrated by **Gary Kwapisz**. Painted cover by **Earl Norem**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 64 pages. For Mature Readers. $2.00.

☐**AKIRA** #3—The motorcycle gang leader, **Kaneda**, has gotten caught up in the rebels' attempt to find the mysterious **Akira**. But what he doesn't know is that his best friend, **Tetsuo**, is going through some strange and awesome changes of his own! Written and illustrated by **Katsuhio Otomu**. English translation by **Jo Duffy**. A 64-page Epic Comics graphic album. For mature readers. $3.50.

☐**THE 'NAM** Trade Paperback #2—From THE 'NAM #s 5, 6, 7, and 8, the high-quality reprints of this groundbreaking comics series. See the Vietnam War through the eyes of the people who were there! Written by **Doug Murray** and illustrated by **Michael Golden, Wayne Vansent,** and **John Beatty**. 96 pages. $6.95.

Shipping July 19
On Sale August 9

☐**MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE** #68—Featuring previews of: the Epic Graphic Album Limited Series: **Havok and Wolverine** in MELTDOWN; the personalized history of the U.S. Marine Corps in SEMPER FI; the post-holocaust saga of survival, THE LAST AMERICAN; an incredible battle in the spiritual realm THE LIGHT AND DARKNESS WAR; and. . . ELVIRA! All this plus **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck**, Marvel Trivia Quiz, our liltin' letters pages, Marvel Correspondents, and all the other features you've come to expect! Direct sales only. 50¢.

☐**THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #349—Can three criminals hope to take on both **Spider-Man** and the **Hulk**? When they're armed with high-tech weaponry, they can—in the climactic conclusion of the crossover with WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #44! "War Zone" is written by **Peter David** and illustrated by **Jeff Purvis**. 75¢.

☐**BULLY INKLE AND ROCKY** #7— **Bullwinkle** and **Rocky** go back to the college that hosted their most famous adventure. But when they arrive, they find that Wassamotto U is now Wassamotto *Me* and run by none other than the fiendish **Boris** and **Natasha**! "Return to Wassamotto U" is written by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐**MARVEL TALES** #217—Reprinting from THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #175: The **Hitman** has kidnaped **J. Jonah Jameson**! Can **Spider-Man** and the **Punisher** save **Jonah**. . . and can they *stand* him long enough to rescue him? Written by **Len Wein**, penciled by **Ross Andru**, and inked by **Jim Mooney**. 75¢.

☐**THE AVENGERS** #297—The **Avengers** have broken up! **Thor's** gone his own way. The **Black Knight** is the victim of an ancient curse. The **She-Hulk** has left in disgrace. And **Dr. Druid** is being controlled! Could this be the last chapter in **Avengers** history? Written by **Walt Simonson**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. $1.00.

☐**CONAN THE BARBARIAN** #212—**Conan** is trapped in a crypt. But dying of suffocation is the least of his worries—for the crypt contains a deadly secret, one that can turn even the savage Cimmerian's blood to ice! "The Warrior's Way" is co-plotted and scripted by **James C. Owsley**, co-plotted and penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala**. $1.00.

☐**G.I. JOE** #80—A new island has risen beside Cobra Island. Who will control it—**Cobra** or **G.I. Joe**? The answer will surprise you! Written by **Larry Hama** and penciled by **Ron Wagner**. Biweekly. $1.00.

☐**MUPPET BABIES** #22—The **Muppet Babies** take a fun-filled trip into the clouds to meet the people responsible for the weather! What will life be like "Up in the Clouds?" Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐**THE PUNISHER** #13—Last issue, the **Punisher** broke into prison to get at a murderous cult leader. This time, he has to escape with the help of a couple of new friends. . . only one of whom will survive the experience! "Sacrifice Play" is written by **Mike Baron**, penciled by **Whilce Portacio**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. $1.00.

☐**THE SILVER SURFER** #17—What has happened to **Reed** and **Sue Richards**? Can the **Silver Surfer** stand alone against the awesome menace looming in the mysterious black hole? All we can say is that not even the **Silver Surfer** is prepared for what happens next! Written by **Steve Englehart** and illustrated by **Ron Lim**. $1.00.

☐**THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #238—The mutant slaves in Genosha revolt! But the brutal masters know how to suppress any revolution—even if it is being led by the **X-Men**! Plus: what has happened to **Madelyne Pryor**? **Cyclops** finds out! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Mark Silvestri**, and inked by **Dan Green**. $1.00.

☐**THE X-TERMINATORS** Limited Series #2—The **X-Terminators** must save **Artie** and **Leach** from a fate worse than death—demon sacrifice! But will the **X-Terminators** rescue their friends in time to stop Inferno? Written by **Louise Simonson** and penciled by **Jon Bogdanove**. $1.00.

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☐**JUSTICE** #25—His name is **Quill**. And he could turn out to be the one foe **Justice** fears! A suspense-filled crossover with PSI-FORCE #25. Written by **Peter David** and illustrated by **Lee Weeks**. Mando Offset paper. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐**NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D.** Limited Series #5—In the heart of the Himalayas, **Nick** and **Madame Hydra** delve deeper into the mystery of the Delta Equation and the corruption that's been eating away at **S.H.I.E.L.D.**! Meanwhile, **S.H.I.E.L.D.'s** robotic **Life Model Decoys** are heading into space. Why are they going? And more importantly, can **Nick** stop them? "The Ascension Call" is written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder**, with painted color by **Bernie Jay** and a cover painted by **Kevin Nowlan**. A 48-page graphic album. $3.50.

Shipping July 26
On Sale August 16

☐**IRON MAN** #236—An acclaimed sculptor who creates incredibly beautiful and lifelike statues! The mysterious disappearances of scores of young women! A man seeking immortality. Another man seeking vengeance! How are all these things linked? **Iron Man** knows and that's why he's launching one of the most desperate manhunts in his life. For the man behind it all is the **Grey Gargoyle**! Co-plotted and scripted by **David Michelinie**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and co-plotted and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

☐**THE FANTASTIC FOUR** #320—The **Thing** vs. the **Hulk**, like you've never seen them before! 'Nuff said! Written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐**SPEEDBALL** #3—All-out action issue! **Speedball's** powers are put to the test by **Leaper Logan**! And wait'll you see the test **Leaper Logan** has planned! "Leaper Logan" is scripted by **Roger Stern**, plotted and penciled by **Steve Ditko**, and inked by **Jackson Guice**. 75¢.

☐**THOR** #397—**Thor** and **Hogun** are trapped in **Seth's** awesome headquarters, the Black Pyramid! Confident that they can never escape, **Seth** launches the ultimate assault on Asgard! Written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢.

☐**THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #309—In order to get his wife back from **Jonathan Caesar**, **Spidey** must fight his way past the bizarre double menance of **Styx** and **Stone**! Written by **David Michelinie** and drawn by **Todd McFarlane**. Biweekly. $1.00.

☐**CARE BEARS** #19—**Care Bears** face one of their greatest challenges when they set out to rescue kids trapped in a life-size game world run by the evil **Gamester**! "Fun and Games Land" is written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐**CLASSIC X-MEN** #27—Re-presenting from X-MEN #121 the brutal battle between **Alpha Flight** and the **X-Men**! "Shootout at the Stampede" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Plus: An all-new back-up tale starring **Cyclops**, **Phoenix**, and **Wolverine**. Written by **Ann Nocenti** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. $1.00.

☐**THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #144—**Peter Parker's** in San Diego promoting "WEBS," his book of **Spider-Man** photos. But the ever-lethal **Boomerang** is in San Diego too! **Boomerang's** in town for an international yacht race. . . and if the web-spinner can't stop him, he's going to bring new meaning to the term "finish line"! Scripted by **Gerry Conway** and drawn by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

☐**X-FACTOR** #34—**Angel's** quest for **Candy Southern** leads him straight to one of **X-Factor's** greatest enemies—**Cameron Hodge**! Meanwhile, the **Orphan Maker** and **Nanny** continue their sinister kidnaping of children. Now **Cyclops** and **Marvel Girl** are on their trail, because one of those children belongs to **Cyclops**! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walt Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. $1.00.

☐**DRAGON'S TEETH** #3—It is a post-apocalyptic Earth, where danger to the fragile pockets of civilization can come from anyone, at any time! And what the latest—deadliest—threat the **Dragon's Teeth** team must now face is the frighteningly charismatic **High Father**! He wants anyone who ever fought in the original **Dragon's Teeth** arena to join him. The team must discover why—fast! "Heroes' Welcome!" is written by **Simon Furman** and drawn by **Geoff Senior**. Produced in England. $1.50.

☐**DOCTOR STRANGE** #1—Fresh from his recent stint in STRANGE TALES, **Doc** returns to the pages of his very own series! But there's no time for celebration when **Doc** faces the return of one of his greatest foes—the dread **Dormammu**! And you won't believe your eyes when you see how **Dormammu** returns! "Love Is the Spell and the Spell Is Death" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Richard Case**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. Direct sales only. Mando Offset Paper $1.25.

☐**G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS** #3—Three stories—and a bonus mini-poster!

In "Cold Zone" **Cobra Vipers** invade a top secret military research base in the remote, frozen wilds of North America. But what the **Vipers** didn't plan for is the presence of the **Joe, Snake Eyes**! Unfortunately for **Snake Eyes**, what he didn't reckon on is the interference from the mentally unbalanced research scientist known as **Chattle**! Written by **Ian Rimmer** and drawn by **Jerry Paris**.

In "Old Scores" **General Lol** discovers that the injustice he did to **Storm Shadow** is nothing compared to the vengeance that Storm Shadow is demanding! Written by **Grant Morrison** and drawn by **Mark Farmer**.

Plus: The **Joes** battle **Megatron** in "Ancient Relics!"

Produced in England by Marvel U.K. $1.50.

new universe™

☐**THE STAR BRAND** #16—The **Starchild** plays **God**, and unleashes the ultimate curse—the elimination of death in the New Universe! Written and penciled by **John Byrne**, inked by **Tom Palmer**. 32 pages. Direct Sales only. Mando Offset paper. $1.25.

☐**TRANSFORMERS** #48—The mysterious **Z Foundation** hires mercenaries to bring them the **Autobots**. Wait'll you see the weapons the **Z Foundation** gives those mercenaries! Written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. $1.00.

SUPER-VILLAIN® CHECKLIST

Boomerang: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #144
Bullet Biker: SOLO AVENGERS #12
Caesar, Jonathan: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #308 and #309
Cult of the Black Blade: WOLVERINE #1
Demons from Limbo: THE X-TERMINATORS #2
Dormammu: DOCTOR STRANGE #1
Grey Gargoyle: IRON MAN #236
High Evolutionary: SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #8, AVENGERS ANNUAL #17
Hodge, Cameron: X-FACTOR #34
Leaper Logan: SPEEDBALL #3
Magistrates: THE X-MEN #237
Nebula: THE AVENGERS #297
Nightshift: WEST COAST AVENGERS #38
Orphan Maker and **Nanny:** X-FACTOR #34
Right-Winger and **Left-Winger:** CAPTAIN AMERICA #347
Seth: THOR #397
Spyder and the **Web:** THE NEW MUTANTS #89
Styx and **Stone:** AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #309
Taskmaster: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #308
Warwolves: EXCALIBUR #2
Warzone: WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #44, THE INCREDIBLE HULK #349
Yellowjacket: SOLO AVENGERS #12

☐**MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** #7—The biweekly action reaches a fever pitch!

WOLVERINE Part VII; **Wolverine** goes wild! Written by **Chris Claremont**, and drawn by **John Buscema** and **Klaus Janson**.

MAN-THING Part VII: The **Man-Thing** no more? Written by **Steve Gerber** and drawn by **Tom Sutton**.

SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU Part VII: The penultimate chapter! **Shang-Chi** caught in a trap whose only escape is death! Written by **Doug Moench**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Dave Cockrum**.

Plus: complete in this issue, a hard-hitting saga of the **Sub-Mariner** scripted by **Hollis Bright** and plotted and penciled by **Steve Ditko**. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐**THE 'NAM** #24—North Vietnam launches the Tet Offensive and for the United States, it means that the war in Vietnam is lost! "Tet: Beginning of the End Part 1" is written by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Geoff Isherwood**. 32 pages. Direct sales only. Mando offset paper. $1.25.

☐**ALF COMICS MAGAZINE** #1—What's that? You say you missed getting copies of the already-rare ALF #s 1 and 2? Well, here's a second chance to get in on the fun—reprints of those two collectors-item stories! And as if that wasn't enough, you'll find classic tales of **Bullwinkle** and **Heathcliff** as well! Written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. A 64-page Star Comics Digest. $1.50.

☐**CONAN SAGA** #18—Re-presenting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #20 the classic suspense-filled tale, "The Slithering Shadow!" **Conan** enters the eerie Xuthal of the Dusk, a city of timeless terrors inhabited by a monster that defied the eons. Written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Alfredo Alcala**. Cover painting by **Earl Norem**. A Marvel black and white magazine. 64 pages. $2.00.

☐**MARVEL SPRING SPECIAL** #1—Straight from the silver screen comes an adaptation of the new hit film, ELVIRA, MISTRESS OF THE DARK! When the popular horror-show hostess inherits a spooky old house, the place comes complete with a magical cookbook. Even though **Elvira** doesn't realize the book's power, certain mysterious "others" do—and they'll stop at nothing to get it! Written by **Sid Jacobson** and illustrated by **Ernie Colon**. A 48-page Marvel magazine. $2.00.

☐**INCAL** Graphic Novel—It's the latest in Epic Comics' high-quality translation of the works of French illustrator **Moebius**! Far in the future, a down-at-the-heels private eye finds a mystic gem. But while it gives him great powers, it also puts him in the middle of a war between planets! Written by **Jodorowsky** and illustrated by **Moebius**. 96 pages. For Mature Readers. $8.95.

☐**ALF ANNUAL** #1—Normally a vacation is when you get some rest and relaxation. But for the **Tanners**, when they take their vacation with **ALF**, they find anything but! Plus, **ALF's** old flame, **Rhonda**, returns! This giant-sized, fun and laugh filled annual is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. 64 pages. $1.75.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.

A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.

A **Graphic Album** is a high-quality, stiff-cover comic book edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

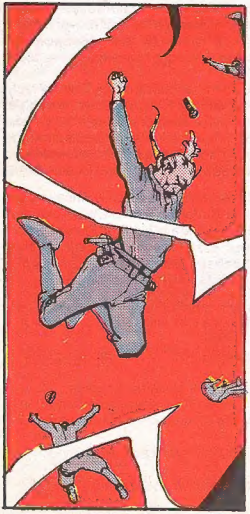
NEWSWATCH

AMIABLE ANECDOTES ABOUT ARTISTS AND ALTERNATE AVOCATIONS

ITEM: You never know where French writer-artist **Jean Giraud** (or as he's also known, "**Moebius**") is going to turn up next! He's already been involved in comics, films, and a recent series of graphic novels from Epic Comics. But the newest place in which his artwork has shown up may also be the most surprising—would you believe it's on a postage stamp?

It's true! The French government recently released a series of postage stamps honoring those French comic book artists who've won the coveted Grand Prize at the International Comic Book Festival at Angouleme. The convention is attended by over 100,000 people each year, and Moebius is one of the elite artists the Festival has honored. The whole thing is quite a compliment...and besides, the stamps look real neat, too!

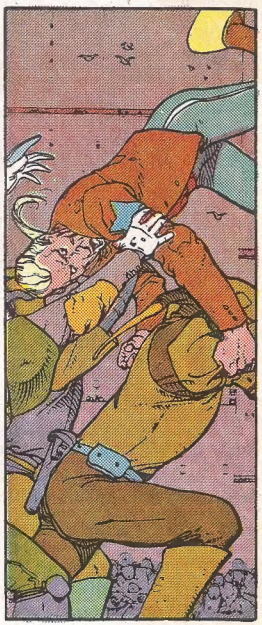
So keep your eyes peeled the next time you're strolling down the Champs Elysees. At this rate, you might just find THE INCAL emblazoned on your pocket change!



ITEM: Speaking of artists appearing in places other than comics, it looks like an awful lot of Marvel staffers have been taking other segments of the art world by storm lately! Galleries in the New York area have been featuring fine art by some familiar artists, including inker **Joe Rubinstein** and colorist **Evelyn Stein**! Meanwhile, the Queens Museum has exhibited semi-abstract oil paintings by colorist **Juliana Ferriter**, while Manhattan's Lawrence Gallery displayed colorist **Christie Scheele's** figurative and landscape works in oils and pastels. A well-earned "congratulations" goes out to one and all! After all, we may not know much about art, but we know what we like.

ITEM: While we're on the topic of Marvel folks doing other sorts of things, we also want to wish the best of luck to Marvel staffer **Harry Eisenstein**. Harry's taken a three-month leave of absence to be the cinematographer on the upcoming science-fiction/horror film, THE SUCKLING!

And Harry's not the only friend of ours involved in the film. SOLO AVENGERS inker **Jose Marzan** contributed a slew of pre-production drawings for the film. And Bullpenner **Hector Collazo** plays the monstrous title character! We've all admired Hector's acting talent, ever since he donned a red and blue costume to become **Spider-Man** for special tours in the Bullpen. But while we think Hector's dedication to his new role is great, we do wish he'd stop dripping slime on the pages when he's inking!



THE INCAL TM and © 1988 Alexandro Jodorowsky and Moebius.

THE TOP TEN

And now because you demanded it (especially if you're the Supreme Marvel Zombie, **Jim Salicrup**), here's our monthly Top Ten. This time our list of the ten best-selling titles in the Direct Sales market is for the month of March. And, as always, it's compiled by our trusty Vice-President Direct Sales, **Carol Kalish**.

1 — **X-MEN** #231
2 — **X-FACTOR** #30
3 — **THE NEW MUTANTS** #65
4 — **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #302
5 — **IRON MAN** #232
6 — **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #140
7 — **SILVER SURFER** #13
8 — **CLASSIC X-MEN** #23
9 — **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #40
10 — **THE AVENGERS** #293

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 3 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 8

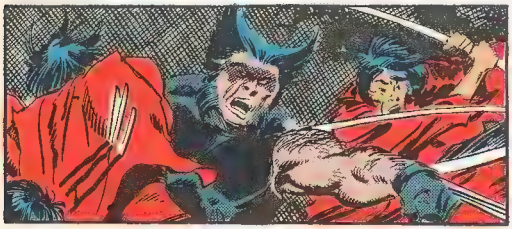
WOLVERINE UNLEASHED

Long the most popular member of the X-Men, Wolverine is at last receiving his very own regular comic book. Having been featured in two Limited Series in the past, Wolverine recently starred in his own ten-part story in the initial issues of the biweekly MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS. That story leads into the regular WOLVERINE comic book, which will be written by Chris Claremont, who has been scripting Wolverine's adventures for fourteen years now. John Buscema, who worked on the WOLVERINE series in the biweekly, is doing full pencils for the regular WOLVERINE comic book, which is being inked by Al Williamson. "John's doing some absolutely superlative work," Chris comments. "Excellent characterization, dynamic storytelling, great-looking Wolverine. What I've seen of the inks is on par with the pencils. That says it all." Bob Harras, who recently became editor of THE X-MEN, is editing this new series as well. And of course, Wolverine will continue to appear regularly in THE X-MEN.

Speaking of Wolverine's new book, Chris Claremont comments that "The essence of the series is high adventure. 'Conan the Barbarian' meets 'Terry and the Pirates.' Dastardly villains, exotic women, fantastic locales, lost civilizations, and the occasional Super-Villain.

"As with the 'Wolverine' series in the biweekly, it's primarily set in my fictional South Asian principality of Madripoor, the ultimate hive of scum and villainy." Here Wolverine is based in the Princess Bar, which he owns in partnership with a mysterious man named O'Donnell, who runs it. "It's basically *the* place to go for making contacts, buying and selling information, making deals, the works. O'Donnell is connected with a former world-class criminal and her partner who used to operate in the Far East." About O'Donnell Chris will say no more.

Due to the events at the end of last year's "Fall of the Mutants" storyline in X-MEN, the world believes the X-Men, including Wolverine, to be dead. How then can Wolverine operate in Madripoor while keeping the fact of his survival secret? He solves the problem by adopting a secret identity. As co-owner of the Princess Bar, Wolverine is known as Patch, after the eyepatch he wears. When he goes into action against his adversaries, Wolverine will wear a different costume than the one he wears when working with the X-Men. His opponents will either believe they are fighting a man named Patch or "this mysterious guy in black who has no name," Chris explains. "Wolverine will obviously have to use his abilities in such a way that no one can tell who he is. He'll have to be very circumspect in his use of the claws, or make sure that whoever he's fighting doesn't get out alive."



This brings us to another aspect of the new series. "He will be a wilder Wolverine, a more violent Wolverine than we're used to seeing in THE X-MEN," Chris asserts, although he adds, "What Wolverine does in this series isn't any different from what he's done in his two mini-series" in past years. In this new series, "he's less inhibited in terms of using ultimate force. That's because Storm and the other X-Men are a restraining influence on him. Here he's running by his own set of rules, his own code of honor and behavior rather than the X-Men's. When he is with the X-Men, he is willing to subordinate his own personal ethical structure to a degree to the group's ethical structure, which is considerably

TALK IS CHEAP BUB
YOU WANT MY HIDE
TAKE IT
IF YOU CAN'T
MY NAME IS LOGAN BUT MOST PEOPLE KNOW ME AS
WOLVERINE.
I'M THE BEST THERE IS AT WHAT I DO.

more tolerant and benevolent than his own." In his own series, though, "you cross the line, you take the consequences.

"Also, Wolverine acts more violently in his own series because he is operating in a different context than in his adventures with the other X-Men. This is a part of the world where he comes up against an opposition that doesn't play by the same rules" as the X-Men's opponents. "This is real world opposition, real world guns, real world death. So he would tend to fight fire with fire."

However, Chris declares, "His use of ultimate force will not be casual or gratuitous. It will grow out of the dictates of the situation and his own code of honor."

The first three issues of the WOLVERINE series will deal with the quest for the Black Blade of Muramasa. "It's a supposedly enchanted sword that possesses its owner, and it's viewed as a sacred talisman by the ancient Japanese Cult of the Black Blade. They'll stop at nothing to get it. Wolverine gets involved because a retainer of Mariko Yashida's people" — Mariko is the woman Wolverine loves — "is killed by the cult in an attempt to get the blade." Jessica Drew, who was formerly the original Spider-Woman, and her friend Lindsay McCabe also get involved. "They run into trouble. Wolverine runs into trouble. It turns out there's a third party involved, the Silver Samurai. So Wolverine, the Samurai, and the cult are all after the same weapon. In the course of the three issues Wolverine gets possessed by the sword, and he and the Samurai have a knock-down, drag-out fight to the death."

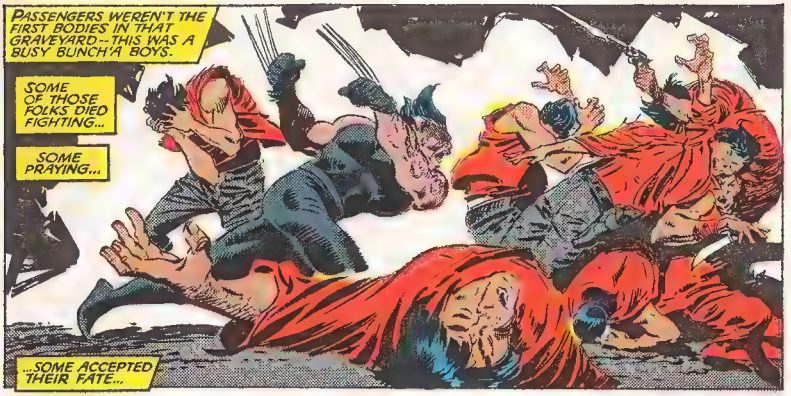
The fourth issue re-introduces the crimelord General Coy, who has previously appeared in SPIDER-WOMAN, NEW MUTANTS, and MARVEL TEAM-UP, and who will become the rival of the Madripoor crimelord known as the Tyger, who appeared in the WOLVERINE storyline in the biweekly. General Coy's niece, the New Mutant, Karma, will also turn up.

Jessica and Lindsay will become regular supporting characters in WOLVERINE, setting up shop as detectives in Madripoor. Other supporting characters, Chris says, are "the mysterious international law firm of Landau, Luckman, and Lake. Basically, if you want anything done, you go to them."

We are unlikely to see any major revelations about Wolverine's past in this new series. "As far as I'm concerned," Chris says, "the less we know about him, the better, although that doesn't mean I won't hint at things. I think Wolverine's one of those characters who benefits from mystery." But exploring Wolverine's personality is a different matter. "I think in certain respects we've barely scratched the surface," Chris says, and he plans to do more. Wolverine himself will act as narrator of the series, and the tone of the series "will be a reflection of him," and hence it will be a darker tone than that of Chris's other new series, EXCALIBUR. "EXCALIBUR is a dramedy, a drama with comedic elements or a comedy with dramatic elements. WOLVERINE is definitely dramatic with every so often a comedic element or two."

Chris sees Wolverine as being one of the strongest character concepts among Marvel heroes "because in him the heroic conflicts are clearly and specifically delineated. He is an extraordinarily violent man who doesn't take any guff from anybody, which readers appreciate. He has a code of conduct which is very specific: You do this and everything's cool, but you do that and the roof falls in on you. And yet the ethical side of him is constantly at war with the animal side of him, the berserker in him. And you never quite know when he's going to lose it. So he is heroic in that he confronts this dark side of his nature and triumphs, but the triumph carries within itself the seeds of tragedy, because there's always the possibility that he will fail."

"I think Wolverine in his essence is a lot closer to Conan than any other Marvel hero we have," Chris states. He sees Wolverine as "a modern-day savage who is in conflict with his nobility," and the


PASSENGERS WEREN'T THE FIRST BODIES IN THAT GRAVEYARD--THIS WAS A BUSY BUNCH'A BOYS.
SOME OF THOSE FOLKS DIED FIGHTING...
SOME PRAYING...
...SOME ACCEPTED THEIR FATE...

question is "whether the nobility in inherent within him or grafted on."

We see this division between a ethical side and a dark, animalistic side of a character in the Hulk, but in his case they are separated into two different personalities. In Wolverine's case the ethical and dark sides are linked within one personality. "The horror with Wolverine is that he always knows exactly what he's doing," Chris points out. Banner does not control the Hulk and has usually been unaware of what the Hulk does while he's doing it. "Banner wakes up and goes, 'What have I done?' Wolverine wakes up and knows exactly what he's done." This is even true when Wolverine goes into a berserker rage, such as the one at the end of the KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE Limited Series. "Even at his most irrational, he is aware of what he's doing." In fact, "it was a conscious decision" for Wolverine to launch into the berserker rage to defeat the villain at the end of that Limited Series.

"Wolverine's whole essence is that whatever he does, he is responsible," Chris states. "Everything he does is a choice. And it's a primal choice: to kill or not to kill, to be good or not to be good. In Spider-Man's case, he is in all respects a fundamentally decent, ethical man. His choice is to be responsible or not to be responsible" in using his powers. "With Wolverine the choice is 'Is he a man or not?' 'Am I a man or am I a beast? Am I a rational being or an emotional, irrational brute? Angel or devil?'

"Banner doesn't have any choice about it," Chris asserts. "He is a man or he is a brute. He gets angry, he loses control, and he becomes his id," his dark side. "Wolverine never has that luxury. The id is there all the time." He can never escape the presence and temptation of his own dark side within him. Wolverine can and must choose whether or not to give in to that dark side of his personality.

"The whole thing that made the first WOLVERINE Limited Series so powerful, I hope, was his decision at the end of the third issue: 'I am a man. Not a beast. And because I am a man, I must do certain things that will cost me dearly.'"

Continually Wolverine will find himself in situations in which he must once more make this basic choice. He must ask himself how far he can go without violating his code of conduct, without crossing that line between humanity and brutishness, between rationality and irrationality.

Chris believes "The depth of Wolverine's characterization comes from the conflict between those two aspects. It's a conflict that everyone reading the book can relate to, because on a primal level it's something that we all have to deal with." And, Chris says, Wolverine will never entirely resolve this ongoing conflict within himself. "It's never resolved. Not until he's dead."

—Peter Sanderson

(...CAN CORRUPT)
(..CONSUME..)
(...THEIR SOULS...)
I'LL DO WHAT I CAN, MY FRIEND.
AND GET THE WORD TO LADY MARIKO...
...THAT YOU SERVED HER FAITHFULLY AND WELL...
...AND DIED, A TRUE SAMURAI!

With this issue we introduce an occasional feature that casts a fond look back at some of our heroes and teams no longer active. So sit back, open a soda, and get ready to enjoy our first . . .

MARVEL FLASHBACK ON:

THE CHAMPIONS®

Nowadays, everybody moves to L.A! Or so it seems in the super hero set. The California Southland is literally teeming with teams—the most prominent being the West Coast Avengers. But the very first team to charter themselves as the official super heroes of Los Angeles were none other than the self-proclaimed "heroes for the the common man": the Champions!

Though their days of glory were all too brief, lasting from mid-1975 to barely the dawn of 1978, the Champions formed an important chapter in the lives of some of Marvel's most colorful characters. They prepared Warren Worthington, the Angel, for the founding of the New Defenders, they kept Hercules in the public eye before the release of his multiple Limited Series, and they laid the groundwork for the adventures of the Soviet Super-Soldiers and the Marvel Graphic Novel, EMPEROR DOOM!

In 1975, Marvel was introducing new books to the world in the Giant-Size format, which launched the new X-MEN, INVADERS, and SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP CHAMPIONS was to be the next book introduced in the line, but then the Giant-Size format was discontinued, necessitating that their first epic adventure be serialized over the course of CHAMPIONS #1–3.

And an epic adventure it was! As conceived by Tony Isabella and rendered by Don Heck, the Champions joined forces in a veritable crucible of chaos, united by circumstance when they might otherwise have remained strangers forever. They certainly were a diverse group: the Russian super-agent, the Black Widow; the man-demon known as the Ghost Rider; the former X-Men, Iceman and Angel; and the Olympian demi-god, Hercules! Hercules was the focal member in the introductory saga, when he became the target of a sinister scheme concocted by Pluto, Lord of the Underworld. Pluto wished to add Earth to his domain, and toward that end planned to eliminate his Olympian opposition of Hercules and Venus by marrying them off to *his* allies, Hippolyta and Ares! Bound by unbreakable oaths, Hercules and Venus would be unable to prevent Pluto's dreams of conquest—unless help came from some unexpected source!

That source, of course, arrived in the form of Natasha Romanova, Bobby Drake, Warren Worthington, and Johnny Blaze! The jet set lifestyle had brought Natasha to Los Angeles, where Pluto had employed his old Hollywood studio front to kidnap the unsuspecting Herculse. Warren and Bobby were in town to enroll in UCLA, and Johnny Blaze worked in the city as a Hollywood stunt man, making the Ghost Rider's appearance a natural. Thrown together by the crisis of Pluto's legions about to invade the Earth, they considered going their separate ways after their victory.

But when Hercules and Natasha were subsequently brainwashed by Malibu madman Edward Lansing, and the rest of the team battled to release their allies' minds from thrall, it affirmed their mutual need for comrades, for justice, for a place to belong. With their fourth issue, the Champions declared themselves a team.

Using Warren's wealth and connections, they soon were set up with an FF-style headquarters, ultra-modern transport in the form of the Champscraft, and even their own attorney, high-powered lawyer Emerson Bale. They battled Rampage, "the recession-born super-villain who could be you!"—that is, if you were an inventor who responded to unemployment by resorting to high-tech terrorism! And the mayor of the city recognized them as LA's own super heroes by their eighth issue.

But their principal source of trauma came from the past of Natasha, whose former Russian masters wanted her back in the Motherland. They blew up Rampage in an explosive ambush of the Champions—they sliced the Griffin in a savage attack on the team—and they finally succeeded in kidnaping both the Widow and Ivan, her loyal friend and chauffeur. Adding a personal angle to the strife were the mysterious Bruskin, who had himself trained the Black Widow for espionage, and the Outcast, Ivan's own son, who had become the new Crimson Dynamo! In the first teaming of what would become the Soviet Super-Soldiers, the Dynamo, the Titanium Man, and Darkstar wrangled with our heroes—the outcome being not only the rescue of the Widow and Ivan, but the informal addition to the team of Darkstar. Not the least of her reasons for defecting to America were the charms of a certain Iceman...

The Champions acquired a slick new look with their eleventh outing, thanks to penciler John Byrne, who was fast making his mark at Marvel. He and scripter Bill Mantlo brought Black Goliath on the scene as another semi-regular, and teamed the Ghost Rider up with Hawkeye and the Two-Gun Kid in a midwest tussle with Warlord Kaa. Back home, the rest of the team handily disposed of the Stiltman, only to face their greatest peril yet from the machinations of the Stranger!

A doomsday device of the Stranger's creation, the Nill-Life Bomb, had gone berserk—expanding in intangible form until it could encompass the Earth. When it had reached its final expansion, it would solidify, contract, and crush the planet! The Champs raced against time to save the world, coming through with a last minute rescue thanks to Darkstar and the fabled Runestaff of Kamo Tharnn. Resting in the aftermath, Ivan left the team and returned to Russia—but there was little time for fond farewells, as the menace of Swarm appeared!

The Champions' penultimate issue featured a combat against Magneto—but under highly unusual circumstances! Dr. Doom had finally succeeded in using his hypno-ray to subjugate the entire planet. But to amuse himself (in a mistake he wouldn't make in EMPEROR DOOM), he left one man's mind free to oppose him: that of the Master of Magnetism! Searching for X-Men who could possibly join him as allies, he turned to the Champions and freed their minds as well, in a thrilling battle against Doom that crossed over with SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP.

But after a last tussle against the Vanisher, Blob, Unus, Lorelei, and some renegade Sentinels, the Champions at last parted company. A postscript to their saga appeared in PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, as Spider-Man and the Angel teamed to battle and rescue a brainwashed Iceman.

Where are the Champions now? Black Goliath has retired from crime-fighting, and Johnny Blaze has been freed of the Ghost Rider's curse. But the team's other mainstays have remained highly visible. Darkstar rejoined her brother, Vanguard, in the Soviet Super-Soldiers—Hercules is an erstwhile Avenger who'll soon be appearing in his own Graphic Novel—and the Black Widow has appeared in both DAREDEVIL and SOLO AVENGERS. Most prominent, of course, are Warren and Bobby, who first helmed the NEW DEFENDERS, and now court death monthly in X-FACTOR.

So it would appear that the chances for a Champions reunion are slim indeed. But at the House of Ideas, don't ever rule anything out! After all, as the title of their premiere adventure stated: "The World Still Needs—Champions!"

—*Brian Nelson*

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Culture Lovers!

Remember a few years ago when I used to tell you about my various college lectures? There was a time when I seemed to be visiting some campus or other at least once a week, bringing the monumentally meritorious message of Marvel to vast hordes of comicdom throughout the North American continent and parts of Europe.

Well, it looks as though history has a way of repeating. I've just returned from a brand-new, titanically triumphant tour of Western Illinois University, in the vast, sprawling metropolis of Macomb, Illinois (population approximately 3 dogs and a chicken). It's a funny thing about Macomb. Even though it's as small a town as you'll find anywhere, the university itself is wonderfully impressive. It's big and beautiful, with a sprawling campus, new, architecturally striking buildings, and the hippest, most congenial slew of students this side of a **John Hughes** movie. And they've got a pizza parlor in town that's to die from!

But the purpose of this magniloquent little monograph isn't merely to extol the virtues of good ol' W.I.U., plentiful though they may be. Nay, my object most sublime (Hey, I didn't steal it from **Gilbert** and **Sullivan**. Haven't you ever heard of coincidence?) is to attempt a symbolic return to the not-too-distant past when you and I used to wax philosophic about cabbages and kings and any subject that might come to mind.

I guess it was my visit to W.I.U. that triggered it. There, in the hallowed halls of academia, surrounded by all those bright young guys and gals with their inquisitive minds and thirsts for knowledge, I remembered the fun we used to have in the old Soapbox columns of years ago, tackling questions that had nothing to do with super heroes or comic books, yet perhaps gaining a better understanding of the world around us — or, at least, giving me the chance to get a lot of wild and way-out theories off my chest.

So, bear with me as we return once again to those halcyon days of yore (**Marvin Yore**, the corner druggist), and tackle some of the more burning issues of the day!

Since we have to start somewhere, I wonder how many of you have ever tossed and turned during the night, unable to sleep because you couldn't solve the Riddle of the Clothing Salesperson?

Ah ha! I can just see the look of sheer bewilderment crossing your oh so trusting yet increasingly quizzical eyes! I can almost hear you wondering half-aloud . . .

"The Riddle of the Clothing Salesperson? Truly, this is most passing strange! Why have I never heard of it? How could my education have been so grievously neglected? What can it be? How fervently do I hope, deep in my heart of hearts, that **Stan**, in his compassion, will clue me in and thereby end the doubt and wonder which bid fair to assail my heart and soul and yea, perhaps even permeate the very core of my being!"

Well, agonize no longer, O True Believer. Thou hast paid thy dues. Thou hast proved thy mettle. The time hath come for thee to learn the Riddle of the Clothing Salesperson! But I caution thee — keep it ever close to thy breast. Mention it not indiscriminately to those of little faith. Consider it, rather, a sacred compact between thine own noble self and I, who so freely choose to share it with thee!

Okay, here we go. The Riddle of the Clothing Salesperson!

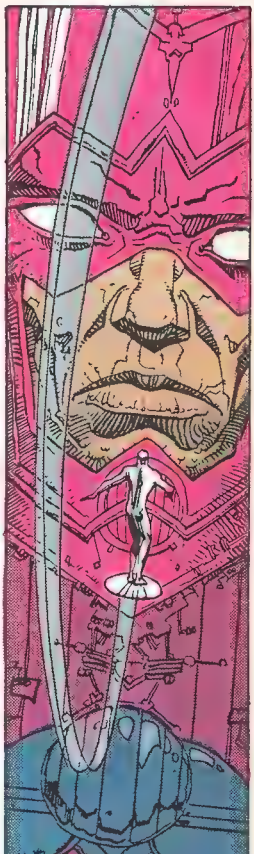
Picture this. You want to buy a new sport jacket. So, you hie yourself thither (or yon, if such be your preference) to your favorite clothing store. Or maybe it isn't your favorite store. Maybe it's just any old store that happens to have a sale that you just can't resist. Be that as it may, you find yourself scrounging through a passel of assorted garments until you find the one you want.

Of course, it's always possible that you won't find the one you want. It's possible you'll have to go to store after store, searching, seeking, on a seemingly endless quest for the ideal sport jacket. But, for the sake of our riddle, let's assume you find it, or we may never get to the punch line!

With a spontaneous cry of exultation you clutch your prize close to your heart and proclaim in a voice quivering with fervor and pride, "This is the jacket I want!"

Unashamedly wiping away cascading tears of gratitude, your salesperson congratulates you warmly, with ill-concealed admiration and new-found respect.

Then comes the crucial moment.



While Stan goes on about The Riddle of the Clothing Salesperson, we thought you might like a peek at SILVER SURFER: PARABLE, the two-issue Limited Series by Stan and Moebius.

The moment that shall herald the Riddle of the Clothing Salesperson!

As if by magic, the tailorperson now appears.

Keen of eye and stern of countenance, he (or she, as the case may be) orders you to don the chosen jacket.

Nervously you comply, secretly wondering if you and the jacket will pass muster; silently hoping that the tailorperson will approve.

Awkward and shy, you regard yourself in the mirror, ever conscious of the unwavering stare of the tailorperson as he (or she, remember?) studies every thread of the fabric, every subtle nuance of the woof and weave, every fold and wrinkle with the practiced and haughty eye of a master (or mistress, if Fate should so decree).

And now, hang in there, hero. We're coming to the essence of the Riddle of the Clothing Salesperson!

As you stand there, feeling naked and alone during this intensely meaningful moment of truth, the salesperson, in his (or her) friendliest and most helpful tone of voice, says to you, "Stand up straight while the tailor checks the fit."

And there you have it! The source of the riddle! Surely I need say no more!

But what is this? Your eyes are blank and staring. Your every gesture indicates a total lack of comprehension. Have I somehow failed? Have I neglected to make myself crystal clear? In my ever-growing enthusiasm have I carelessly omitted some minor detail, some unknowingly salient point which escaped my notice?

Let us try again. No, no, you needn't thank me so effusively. Nothing's too good for the loyal legions of Marvel!

Think about it. You, even as I and everyone else, walk around in a natural, relaxed and casual way. Whether you're in school, or cavorting with your friends, or on a date, or whatever, you shuffle along, you slouch, you bend and bob and weave. The one thing you don't do — the one thing you hardly ever do — the one thing nobody hardly ever does, is — stand up straight!

Now do you get it?

The Riddle of the Clothing Salesperson is — why does that lamebrain tell you to stand up straight while the tailor fits the jacket? You never really stand up straight once you leave the clothing store! Why don't they instead tell you to relax, to stand in your normal slouch, so that they can fit the jacket to the way you will normally wear it?

And, the second and equally important part of this rare and revealing riddle which has been handed down from antiquity is, why do we act equally lamebrained and actually stand up straight when bidden to do so, though there is absolutely no logical reason or justification for such a ridiculous request?

More importantly, why has Congress never addressed itself to this vital problem, to this sordid state of affairs which affects each and every fellow mortal who chooses to wear clothes in public? Where is the Committee to Prevent Standing Up Straight When Having Clothes Fitted? Where are the crusaders, the fighters for human rights, the movers and the shakers of the world when we need them the most? How much longer shall we all be subject to the whims and wickedness of clothing salespersons who fit our garments while we stand up straight so that we'll look like zombies when we finally wear them in our normal sloppy and slovenly manner?!!

In short, where are our super heroes when we need them the most?

(Ha! See how cleverly we bring the subject back to our good ol' costumed do-gooders? And some of you thought we were dealing in mere irrelevancies! For shame, ye of little faith!)

Naturally, I'm not the type of guy to expose a problem which threatens the national good and welfare without proposing a solution. By now, I know that the hallowed hordes of Marveldom Assembled, finally aware of the scope and magnitude of the clothing salesperson danger that threatens us, are clamoring for a means to tackle this all-pervasive problem! Therefore, I offer you the following remedy — one which is not for the meek or faint of heart.

I herewith propose an international crusade! A Fellowship of the Fearless, if you will, united in an unflinching resolve to put an end to this abominable practice, and all such abominable practices, which our own governmental agencies have so callously chosen to ignore.

Let us then come together with courage and resolve, secure in the knowledge that our cause is just and our faith unwavering. No matter what obstacles need be surmounted, no matter what dangers may lie ahead, we shall overcome!

In short, no longer shall the Fellowship of the Fearless stand up straight when trying on a jacket!

And once this crusade has been successfully terminated, we shall, in our righteous wrath and new-found strength, turn our attention to another problem so sorely in need of redress — the heinous practice of facing front when standing in an elevator!

Yea, truly I say unto thee, there is nothing that cannot be accomplished by men and women of good will and better virtue! Though the road ahead be fraught with peril, though many be the obstacles lying in our path, we are the wave of the future, the conscience of the cognoscente, the hope of mankind and the bearers of the torch of comic bookdom!

Perhaps not in my time, nor even in yours, but sooner or later we shall attain the ultimate victory. We can do no less!

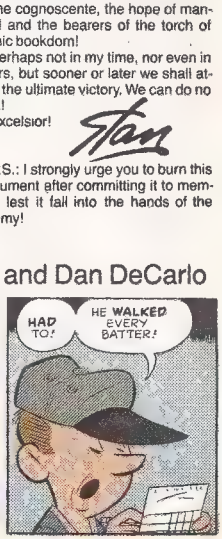
Excelsior!

P.S.: I strongly urge you to burn this document after committing it to memory, lest it fall into the hands of the enemy!

WILLIE LUMPKIN

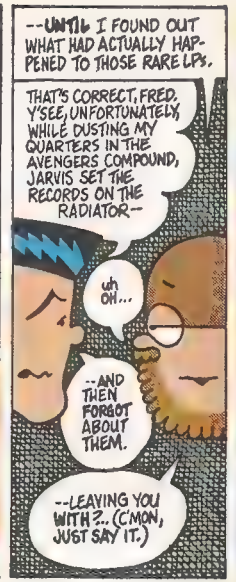
© 1988 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo

HOW'S OUR SON HERMAN DOING, MR. LUMPKIN?
WELL, HE HAD A NO-HITTER GOIN', TILL I TOOK HIM OUT OF THE BOX!
HOLY SMOKE, LUMPY! IF HE PITCHED A NO-HITTER, WHY'D YOU TAKE HIM OUT?
LITTLE LEAGUE
R.INKYPINKS
TIGERS

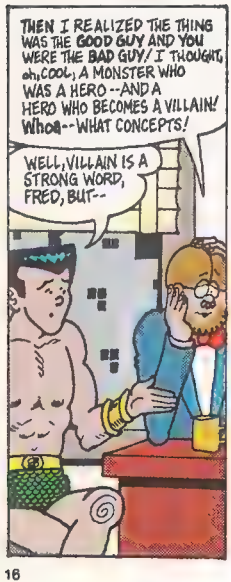


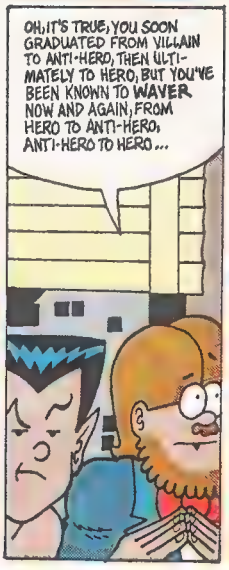
..AND NOW, BACK TO THE
Fred Hembeck Show
WITH FRED'S SPECIAL GUEST, PRINCE NAMOR, the SUB-MARINER!
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THANKS, LUMP. DURING THE BREAK, NAMOR AND I WERE DISCUSSING OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE GREAT DOO-WOP GROUPS OF THE FIFTIES, AND I BECAME VERY EXCITED TO LEARN THAT HE OWNED THE RARE SOLO ALBUMS RECORDED BY THE GROUP THAT BACKED LITTLE ANTHONY ON ALL HIS BIG HITS ("SHIMMY, SHIMMY, KO-KO-BOP," "TEARS ON MY PILLOW," ETC.)--


--UNTIL I FOUND OUT WHAT HAD ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO THOSE RARE LPs.
THAT'S CORRECT, FRED, Y'SEE, UNFORTUNATELY, WHILE DUSTING MY QUARTERS IN THE AVENGERS COMPOUND, JARVIS SET THE RECORDS ON THE RADIATOR--
UH OH...
--AND THEN FORGOT ABOUT THEM.
--LEAVING YOU WITH?.. (C'MON, JUST SAY IT.)

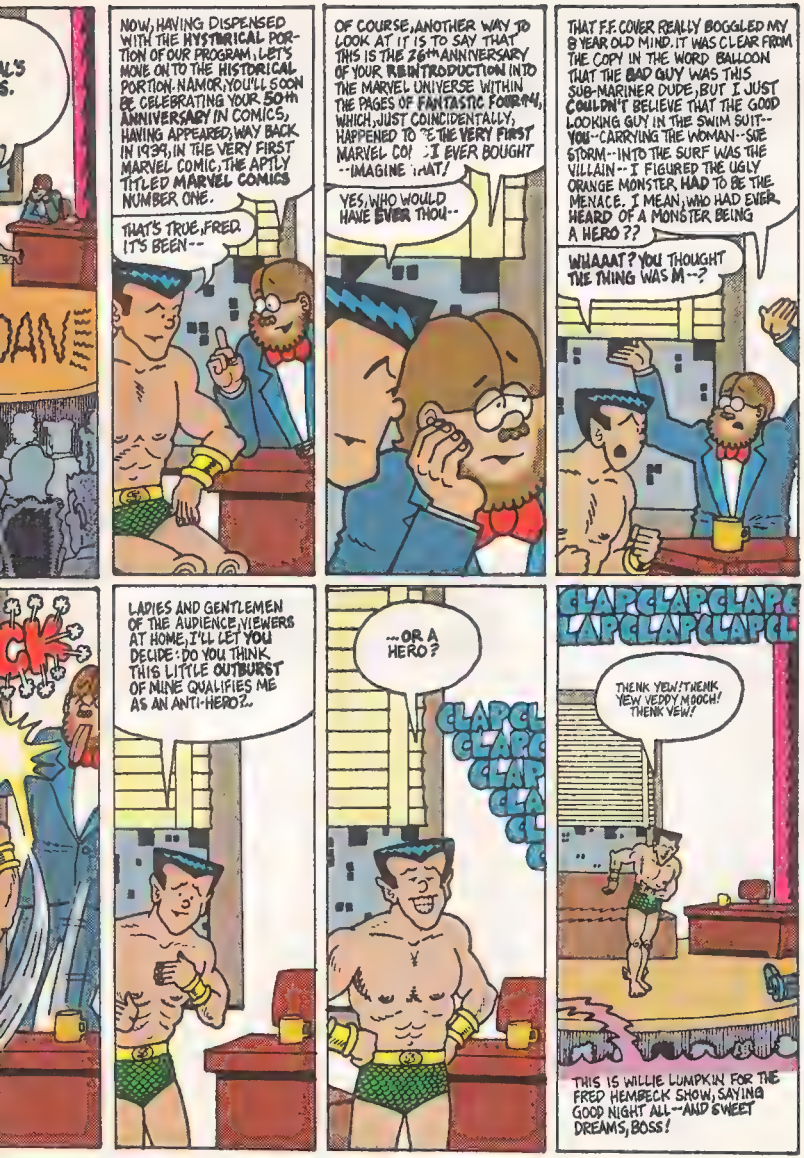
IMPERIA
WRECK
GRO


THEN I REALIZED THE THING WAS THE GOOD GUY AND YOU WERE THE BAD GUY! I THOUGHT, oh, COOL; A MONSTER WHO WAS A HERO --AND A HERO WHO BECOMES A VILLAIN! Whoa--WHAT CONCEPTS!
WELL, VILLAIN IS A STRONG WORD, FRED, BUT--


OH, IT'S TRUE; YOU SOON GRADUATED FROM VILLAIN TO ANTI-HERO, THEN ULTIMATELY TO HERO, BUT YOU'VE BEEN KNOWN TO WAVER NOW AND AGAIN, FROM HERO TO ANTI-HERO, ANTI-HERO TO HERO...

FACT IS, THAT'S HOW YOU STARTED OUT, AS COMICS VERY FIRST ANTI-HERO. NOWADAYS, WITH YOUR RECENT AFFILIATIONS WITH BOTH THE AVENGERS AND ALPHA FLIGHT, YOU'RE RECOGNIZED MOSTLY AS A HERO, BUT REGARDLESS OF YOUR HERO OR ANTI-HERO STATUS, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN TO BE SOMEWHAT TESTY. HOW IS IT THAT--

SO

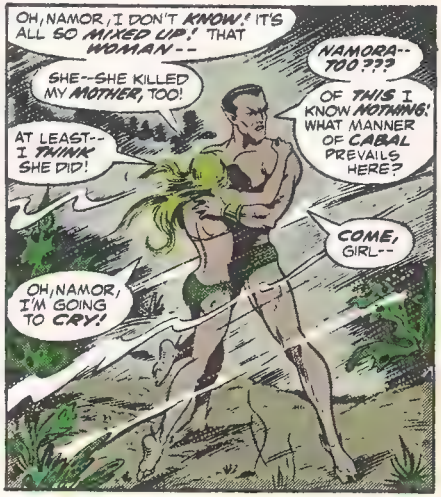

NOW, HAVING DISPENSED WITH THE HYSTERICAL PORTION OF OUR PROGRAM, LET'S MOVE ON TO THE HISTORICAL PORTION. NAMOR, YOU'LL SOON BE CELEBRATING YOUR 50th ANNIVERSARY IN COMICS, HAVING APPEARED WAY BACK IN 1939, IN THE VERY FIRST MARVEL COMIC, THE APTLY TITLED MARVEL COMICS NUMBER ONE.
THAT'S TRUE, FRED. IT'S BEEN--
OF COURSE, ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT IT IS TO SAY THAT THIS IS THE 26th ANNIVERSARY OF YOUR REINTRODUCTION INTO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE WITHIN THE PAGES OF FANTASTIC FOUR #4, WHICH, JUST COINCIDENTALLY, HAPPENED TO BE THE VERY FIRST MARVEL COMIC I EVER BOUGHT --IMAGINE THAT!
YES, WHO WOULD HAVE EVER THOU--
THAT F.F. COVER REALLY BOGGLED MY 8 YEAR OLD MIND. IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE COPY IN THE WORD BALLOON THAT THE BAD GUY WAS THIS SUB-MARINER DUDE, BUT I JUST COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT THE GOOD LOOKING GUY IN THE SWIM SUIT--YOU--CARRYING THE WOMAN--SUE STORM--INTO THE SURF WAS THE VILLAIN--I FIGURED THE UGLY ORANGE MONSTER HAD TO BE THE MENACE. I MEAN, WHO HAD EVER HEARD OF A MONSTER BEING A HERO??
WHAAAT? YOU THOUGHT THE THING WAS M--?
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE AUDIENCE, VIEWERS AT HOME, I'LL LET YOU DECIDE: DO YOU THINK THIS LITTLE OUTBURST OF MINE QUALIFIES ME AS AN ANTI-HERO?..
...OR A HERO?
CLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCLAPCL
THENK YEW! THENK YEW VEDDY MOOCH! THENK VEW!
THIS IS WILLIE LUMPKIN FOR THE FRED HEMBECK SHOW, SAYING GOOD NIGHT ALL--AND SWEET DREAMS, BOSS!

MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ

It was 1968, and my mother gave my little brother and me some comics to keep us happy despite our trip to the dentist. I got the first issue of IRON MAN, while my little brother got the first issue of SUB-MARINER. It took me months to smuggle that first issue of Namor's series from my brother's collection to my own without him noticing. But the **Roy Thomas/John Buscema** Prince of Atlantis was such a regal, awe-inspiring creation — I just had to have it. With the publication of SUB-MARINER #1, I decided to forego the competition's books for years and become a full-fledged Marvelite; the book was *that* powerful.

All of which makes it a special pleasure to review the career of **Subby** this month in the Marvel Trivia Quiz, not to mention the other heroes we're spotlighting this issue, **Wolverine** and the **Punisher**. As the questions below will reveal, none of them have lived life as a bowl of cherries — they've all seen their share of trauma, loss and violence. Not exactly party guys! But the tragedy that has assailed them all has also played a sizable part in making them the stars they are. While a couple of the conundrums posed below (such as the first question) are on the lighter side, most of them reflect the troubled and tragic lives that have melded these characters into valiant heroes combatting sometimes heart-breaking odds. So try the quiz, check the answers on page 32, and maybe next time you see these characters you'll wish them a little more fun in their lives!

—Brian Nelson


OH, NAMOR, I DON'T KNOW! IT'S ALL SO MIXED UP! THAT WOMAN--
NAMORA--TOO???
SHE--SHE KILLED MY MOTHER, TOO!
OF THIS I KNOW NOTHING! WHAT MANNER OF CABAL PREVAILS HERE?
AT LEAST--I THINK SHE DID!
COME, GIRL--
OH, NAMOR, I'M GOING TO CRY!

1. Arrange these characters in height, from tallest to shortest: the Punisher, **Shadowcat**, Sub-Mariner, and Wolverine.

2. What Vietnam vet pal did the Punisher lose in the first issue of his new series?

3. What was the name of the new undersea kingdom the Sub-Mariner recently tried to found?

4. Who did the Punisher rescue from the cult of the **Reverend Sammy Smith**?

5. What villain revealed to Wolverine that **James Hudson** had no role in the more painful parts of Wolverine's origin?

6. What Marvel super hero recently began emulating the Punisher by keeping a War Journal?

7. What DAREDEVIL nemesis developed the process that gave Wolverine an adamantium skeleton?

8. What renegade ronin possessed **Kitty Pryde** until he was defeated by Wolverine?

9. Who killed the vampire **Rachel Van Helsing**?

10. Who killed **Betty Dean Prentiss**, the Sub-Mariner's World War II flame?

11. What organization offered to hire and outfit the Punisher in his Limited Series?

12. Who killed the Punisher's wife and children?

13. Who was responsible for drugging the Punisher while he was imprisoned on Ryker's Island?

14. What extra-dimensional warrior woman, metamorphosized into the vicious **She-Beast**, caused headaches for Namor in his "Savage Sub-Mariner" phase?

15. What was Wolverine's Canadian codename?

16. Who teamed with Namor to battle the serpent-king **Naga**?

17. What villain made his debut in the same issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN as the Punisher?

18. Who was responsible for the death of Namor's mother, **Fen**?

19. And who was responsible for the death of Namor's cousin, **Namora**?

20. AND, who was responsible for the death of Namor's first wife, **Dorma**?

MAKE WAY FOR

THE PUNISHER war journal™ AND THE PUNISHER™ GRAPHIC NOVEL THE ASSASSINS' GUILD

He made his dramatic debut in 1974, as a guest star in THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #129. Since then, the enigmatic **Punisher** has appeared in numerous issues of that magazine. In fact, MARVEL TALES is currently reprinting all of those early stories in chronological order. But that's not what we're here to talk about.

The obsessed vigilante soon graduated into his own solo adventures in two black and white magazines, MARVEL PREVIEW #2 and MARVEL SUPER ACTION #1. The Punisher's popularity grew enormously among fans and creators alike, and he soon found himself making guest appearances in CAPTAIN AMERICA and DAREDEVIL, the latter stories which were recently gathered into a trade paperback. But we're not here to talk about that, either.

As fans clamored for more, the Punisher finally received his own Limited Series, which will also be collected into a trade paperback in the near future for those of you who missed it. But Punisher enthusiasts were still not satisfied. They wanted a regular dosage of their favorite arms-toting gunman. Ever heeding the words of Marveldom assembled, we gave the Punisher a regular series at the beginning of last year. Of course, we're not here to discuss that, either.

So, then, what is this article all about? Glad you asked. It seems that a *monthly* title still wasn't enough! You became addicted to the ebon-clad executioner's exploits. You wanted to see more of his adventures, especially ones that featured the Punisher interacting with other elements of the Marvel Universe. Only one thing would satisfy you.

Another Punisher title.

Which brings us to THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL.

"As editor of the PUNISHER, I began coming up with a lot of stories of my own for the character," said **Carl**

Potts, writer of the new series. "Since he was such a popular character, I checked with [editor in Chief] **Tom DeFalco** to see if Marvel would be interested in publishing a second Punisher comic on a six-week schedule. He was delighted with the idea. After all, **Spider-Man** has *three* titles of his own, so we figured, why not share the glory?"

The first three issues are interconnected to form one large story, entitled "An Eye for an Eye." It deals with revenge, which is the driving force behind the Punisher. "The Punisher, in my view, is a character who is obsessed in several ways," Carl said. "He is a military veteran, so that type of lifestyle is what he knows best. When his family was killed in Central Park by a group of mobsters, he felt guilty for not being able to protect them and for not dying with them. He began by killing the perpetrators immediately responsible for his family's death, but carried that behavior over to virtually all criminals. In so doing, he somewhat exonerates himself for the failure to protect his family. However, if he ever gets killed himself, or hurt or maimed, he also feels he is getting the punishment he deserves for not dying with his family. So the name 'Punisher' actually has a double entendre."

When Carl edited the PUNISHER Limited Series, he had no idea how successful the series would be or how popular the character would become since the Punisher was neither a mutant nor super-powered. He attributes this success to the wave of **Rambo**-type movies that have been plaguing the screen of late, but he sees the Punisher as more of a three-dimensional character than Rambo.

While the PUNISHER series does not concern itself with the Marvel Universe all that much, WAR JOURNAL will interact with it on a regular basis. Carl stresses, however, that it will definitely *not* be a team-up book. The first issue has a cameo appearance by **Matt Murdock**, which will lead into the second and third issues guest-starring **Daredevil**. Further down the line, WAR JOURNAL will feature Spider-Man, **Kingpin**, and yes, a multi-part **Wolverine** storyline in which we will certainly see some sparks fly.

*The **Marvel Punisher** team. Standing from left to right: **Glenn Herdling,Marc Siry,Marcus McLaurin, Fabian Nicieza, John Wellington, Mark Chiarello, Steve Buccellato, Janet Jackson,** and **Randy "the Judge."** Kneeling from left to right: **Bob Sharen, Cindy Martin, Dan Raspler, Carl Potts, Hector Collazo, Michael Yi,** and **David Wohl.***

"Mike Baron [who writes the PUNISHER] and I view the character very similarly," Carl said. "But Mike's version will probably be a bit more hard-nosed than mine." Although the continuity between the two Punisher comics will be tight, there are no plans for an immediate crossover storyline of the two.

Whereas Mike Baron's stories are typically hard-edged and gritty, Carl promises to inject some lighthearted scenarios into his issues. For instance, Carl has plans for the Punisher to partake in a game of skirmish—a survival game in which paint-balls are used as ammunition. He is basing this plot upon his own experiences:

"There is a group of us at Marvel who regularly participates in the sport of paint-ball at a place in upstate New York," Carl explained. "We use small, air-powered pistols that shoot paint-filled gelatin pellets. It's sort of like an adult version of Capture The Flag, except that you tag your opponent out with the paint pellets. Incidentally, we have named the team the Marvel Punishers.

"The sport has received mixed press because some people feel it is a catharsis for natural aggression while others see it as instigating and fostering that aggression. I think that both are true, depending on the personality or the mood of the person that's playing, just as in any other aggressive sport. Either way, it really gets the blood flowing. One thing I learned playing paint-ball is how vulnerable you are in a battle. For anyone who has half a brain, it will make him think twice about ever wanting to get into a real battle. But there are people out there who get a real Rambo-esque attitude about the whole thing.

SORRY, MICROCHIP --DIDN'T MEAN TO...
YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH ME HAS COST YOU PLENTY.
I APPRECIATE YOUR COMING OVER TO HELP ME OUT.
NO SWEAT, FRANK. JUST TRY TO CALM DOWN, HUH? YOU'RE PRETTY EDGY. WHAT'S UP?

"One of the neat things about writing comic books," Carl continued, "is that you can take some of your poetic justice fantasies and put them down on paper for all to see. The story that I'm toying with is that **Frank Castle** [a.k.a. the **Punisher**] would be out playing on the paint-ball field when he runs into one of these guys with the Rambo-esque attitude. Castle, who really knows what he's doing on the battlefield, would completely humble this guy, making him much easier to live with."

Although Carl talks about poetic justice, he assures us that he's never been mugged. "I've come close, and I know quite a few people who have been, so I can imagine the fear that's involved. But I've never been mugged—yet," he said.

Carl says that poetic justice is only one source of inspiration for his stories. The recurring theme in the first three issues of WAR JOURNAL, however, is one of revenge. In fact, the Punisher learns some new information that pertains particularly to his family's killing. At the same time, a young man who has similar motivations as the Punisher, wants to get in on the vigilante bandwagon. But the Punisher refuses to allow this kid to travel down the same road that he's been wandering. Although the Punisher doesn't see his actions as wrong, he doesn't see himself as a role model for others, either—especially since this man is about to get married and start a family.

In future issues, the Punisher will be traveling to Africa and South America, facing problems anywhere from ecological matters to government sponsored death-squads. Carl says that he is trying to instill a sense of psychological terror into the character, trying to combine the elements of the mystery/detective genre with his adventure stories. "Hopefully I will come up with a nice mixture of ingredients for a wide range of people who will enjoy it," he said.

PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL is edited by **Don Daley**, who Carl calls "the most enthusiastic editor I've ever met." Newcomer **Jim Lee**, whose artwork you've probably seen on recent issues of ALPHA FLIGHT, will be penciling and inking most of the issues from Carl's layouts.

But wait, folks! That's not all we're here to talk about. Also due to appear right around the corner is the PUNISHER GRAPHIC NOVEL, by **Jo Duffy** and **Jorge Zaffino**. Jorge hails from Argentina and his work is widely respected in Europe and South America. Although this project is his first work for Marvel, he has been the regular artist on the WINTERWORLD series over at Eclipse Comics. To complement Jorge's artwork, the graphic novel has been beautifully colored by **Julie Michael**.

Entitled "Assassin's Guild," the PUNISHER Graphic Novel details a group of hired assassins who work out of a midtown Japanese restaurant. These assassins, however, have a conscience—they won't just take any job. They must feel that the target is unworthy enough to be exterminated. Of course, the Punisher and the Assassin's Guild are both after the same target: a big-time executive who is a corporate wheeler-dealer. This corrupt fixer is a blackmailer who lures people to seek his aid. Once they are forever in his debt, he leeches them for everything he can.

The graphic novel primarily focuses on two of its "Shinobi" (assassins), a young, Japanese woman, and her younger cousin. Although they are after the same target as the Punisher, when they first confront one another they do not exactly see eye-to-eye. The Punisher is very wary of paid killers. They wind up forming an uneasy alliance as they storm the executive's office building, which is heavily fortified with defense systems, in what proves to be the most action-packed sequence of this intensely depicted graphic novel.

And what's in store for the Punisher's future? Could you possibly want more? Then maybe we should drop a hint about *another* PUNISHER Graphic Novel in the works, brought to you by none other than the team that created the PUNISHER Limited Series—**Stephen Grant** and **Mike Zeck**. But we're not here to talk about that.

—Glenn Herdling

THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER®

Usually we speak of the "Marvel Age of Comics" as having begun in 1961 with the publication of the first issue of THE FANTASTIC FOUR. But the company we know as Marvel had already existed for decades before that under other names. In a sense, then, Marvel Comics really began with the publication in 1939 of the original MARVEL COMICS #1, the series after which Marvel's new biweekly book takes its name. The stars of that first issue are two characters who are still active today: the original android **Human Torch**, who has since been rebuilt into the **Vision**, and **Namor, the Sub-Mariner**, prince of undersea Atlantis.

Newcomers to Marvel have seen the Sub-Mariner in action recently as a member of the **Avengers** or in guest appearances in ALPHA FLIGHT and the FANTASTIC FOUR. But there is a lot more to the Sub-Mariner's long and colorful history than this.

Partly in honor of Namor's fiftieth anniversary, Marvel is publishing a twelve-issue Limited Series called THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER, a complete recounting of Namor's life history. The Limited Series will begin this year and continue into the actual fiftieth anniversary year itself. The writers for THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER are the husband and wife team of **Roy** and **Dann Thomas**. It was Roy who wrote the Sub-Mariner's own series in the 1960s and in the 1970s chronicled his World War II adventures alongside the original Torch and **Captain America** in THE INVADERS. The new series is being penciled by **Rich Buckler** and inked by **Bob McLeod**. Work on THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER began under the editorship of **Michael Higgins**, and it is now being edited by **Terry Kavanagh** and **Mike Rockwitz**.

"The Sub-Mariner has been a favorite character of mine ever since I first encountered him about 1945–1946," explains Roy Thomas. "The character always fascinated me. It was the combination of the sea powers and just the look of him: that triangular head, the wings on his feet, the pointed ears. I didn't even know at that time what a rich heritage he had."

Roy points out that there is a reason to believe that the Sub-Mariner is even older than the original Human Torch, since there is evidence that the initial part of the SUB-MARINER story in MARVEL COMICS #1 was done before the first Torch story, so that the SUB-MARINER story could be published in another magazine called MOTION PICTURE WEEKLY. If so, then Namor is the very first Marvel character to be created who remains active today.

"It seems appropriate as the fiftieth anniversary of MARVEL COMICS #1 comes up that the Torch and especially the Sub-Mariner be treated as the fiftieth anniversary characters they are," Roy says. "They deserve a bit of notice, since they're older than Captain America, not to mention the Fantastic Four, the **Hulk**, and **Spider-Man**."

The Sub-Mariner was created by the late **Bill Everett**, who did his stories in the early 1940s and during Namor's revival in the 1950s and who returned to the character in the 1960s. Speaking of Everett's earliest work on the Sub-Mariner, Roy says, "Those first couple of years were fantastic in terms of ideas and concepts, no matter how crudely executed. They were wonderful ideas, and, I think, were very influential on **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby** in the later years in bringing the Sub-Mariner back." Stan and Jack brought the Sub-Mariner (as a figure who was both hero and villain) into modern Marvel continuity in FANTASTIC FOUR #4 (recently reprinted in MARVEL MASTERWORKS), and

Roy credits them with doing the best version of the Sub-Mariner except only for Everett's.

Although some of the stories on which THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER is based are up to a half-century old, Roy believes it is important and rewarding to learn what the earliest tales of the Sub-Mariner were like. "I'm very interested in the roots of some of the comics even at a time when it seems as if a lot of people in comics are busy undoing those roots," Roy says. "Now, I know that the comics of some earlier years might be cruder and less sophisticated, but are the people doing the Sub-Mariner now, including myself, really more intelligent or creative than Bill Everett was when he made up the Sub-Mariner? Or **Joe Simon** and Jack Kirby when they created Captain America? Comics are more sophisticated now because the times are more sophisticated, but they're not necessarily more creative. While not slavishly having to keep every bit of continuity, I feel characters have histories that should be used, not forgotten and trashed. I think more respect should be paid to the people who came before, whether that means people who did comics in the 1930s and 1940s or people who did comics in the 1960s and 1970s."

Roy is very happy with the art team for SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER. He reports that Rich Buckler "is doing some of the best work of his entire comic book career in combining the feeling of Everett and Kirby and the various artists who have done the Sub-Mariner and bringing a wonderful illustrative look to it as well. And I was really pleased to learn that the inker will be Bob McLeod, who I think will do an excellent job at bringing out this illustrative quality."

Roy believes that he can trace a natural evolution in the Sub-Mariner's character as Namor's life progresses. Namor will grow from the youth who speaks in slang (translated into American slang from the Atlantean!) that Everett depicted in the early years to the man who becomes the ruler of the Atlantean nation, taking on a more noble manner of speaking along with the responsibilities of leadership.

The Sub-Mariner himself narrates the twelve-issue Limited Series, but apart from his narrator role, he himself appears in the first issue only at the end, for the first issue covers the events leading up to his birth. This issue shows how Namor's parents, the American sea captain **Leonard McKenzie** and the Atlantean **Princess Fen** meet and were married.

The second issue deals with Namor's boyhood and introduces us to his cousins **Namora**, **Byrrah**, who becomes his rival, and **Dorma**, his future wife. "It's primarily based on the stories that Bill Everett did in 1954 and 1955 and covers him from the age of eight to ten to the age of fifteen to seventeen," Roy says. This issue ends with the events from MARVEL COMICS #1 in which Namor attacks and kills two human beings wearing diving suits, thinking them to be robots due to the diving suits they wear, which he has never seen before. As a result, thinking the humans are a potential threat to them, the Atlantean Emperor sends Namor to the surface world.

"The third issue has his coming to New York — and tearing up some of New York," says Roy. Policewoman **Betty Dean**, Namor's frequent companion in the 1940s stories, will first show up in this issue, and at the end, the original, android Human Torch turns up to stop Namor's rampage through the city.

"Rich has done a wonderful job with the Torch," Roy says. "Even though **Carl Burgos** created the definitive version of the Torch in many ways," Roy continues, "my favorite drawn story of the original Torch was the one that **Russ Heath** drew for YOUNG MEN #24 in the 1950s. It was the only time in the series I've ever seen a human being look as if he was a human torch on fire. I sent it to Rich for general inspiration. Rich took it and ran with it and did just a marvelous job.

"The fourth issue of the series deals with two or three of the main fights between the Sub-Mariner and the Human Torch." By 1940 the Torch and Sub-Mariner were appearing together in stories and there were virtually no other crossovers between their company's characters. Hence, in a sense, the concept of the Marvel Universe, a world in which characters from different series can interact, originated with the Torch/Namor battles.

Then the fifth issue covers the Sub-Mariner's activities during World War II, when he fought alongside American forces against the Germans. **The Invaders** will briefly turn up in this issue.

Issue six deals with the period from the end of the war up to and including Namor's battle with the villainous **Destiny**, who destroys the Atlanteans' Antarctic settlement, killing Fen and the Emperor, and gives Namor himself amnesia. The Sub-Mariner is left as a derelict wandering in New York City.

Issue 7 opens with the events of FANTASTIC FOUR #4, in which **Johnny Storm**, the new Human Torch, finds Namor and restores his memory. Namor, still not remembering Destiny, blames the human race for the destruction of the Atlanteans' settlement and his first clash with the Fantastic Four follows. Namor's romance with **Sue Storm**, **the Invisible Girl** of the Fantastic Four, will be recounted as well as the events of FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1, in which Namor is reunited with the Atlantean people who make him their ruler, and whom he leads in war against the surface world. "In the last six issues we'll be covering his life up to and including his work in the Avengers and the death of **Marrina**," his second wife, Roy concludes.

Why has the Sub-Mariner lasted for half a century in comics? Roy thinks it is because "His creator, Bill Everett, was a more creative and intelligent person than most in comics, and Bill poured a lot of himself into the character. Bill had a rebel kind of personality. As a result, the character had more depth than even Bill saw, and that made him a more interesting character to artists and writers in later years.

"The Sub-Mariner is the kind of character I think a lot of us think of ourselves as being, with one foot in one world and another foot in another world," Roy speculates. In Namor's case, he is half human and half undersea Atlantean. "Any young person who feels any torment that his parents don't understand him, or that the world doesn't understand him, can identify to some extent with this character who is partly human yet could not be entirely happy in the world of humans. In that sense he was an early ancestor of the Thing and the X-Men. It's interesting that in the early days of the X-Men they went looking for the Sub-Mariner, thinking him a mutant." Literally the Sub-Mariner *is* a mutant, Roy believes, since his strength is greater than a normal human or Atlantean's, and he, unlike them, has the power to fly. But figuratively the Sub-Mariner is much the same kind of character as the X-Men as well. "He may not be the same kind of mutant they were, but the fact is he was an early version of the same thing that eventually made THE X-MEN such a popular book."

Consider. The Sub-Mariner was comics' first major anti-hero, who began not by defending mankind but by fighting it, and being attacked in turn. When he first appeared in comics, he was still only a teenager. His father was believed to have been killed. Sometimes he battled other heroes, and other times was allied with them. Though Namor's actions were continually misunderstood by the human race, he always followed his own moral code. Thus it is appropriate that the Sub-Mariner was the earliest Marvel character, because even in his early exploits we see the themes that will become so important in the Marvel series created in the 1960s. In THE SAGA OF THE SUB-MARINER, you can see how it all began.

—Peter Sanderson

WILLOW™
HYAAAAH! NO MERCY!!
RUN FOR IT!!
WAAAAH
SHH... DON'T CRY, ELORA. THINGS CAN'T GET ANY WORSE THAN THIS.
WILLOW TM and © 1988 Lucasfilm Ltd.

Everything about WILLOW is magic. This Graphic Novel adaptation of the new Lucasfilm movie introduces a fantasy kingdom where magic is real. From the evil sorceress intent on ruining the world, to her mystically-empowered horde of **Death Dogs**, everything about this story is magic.

Really.

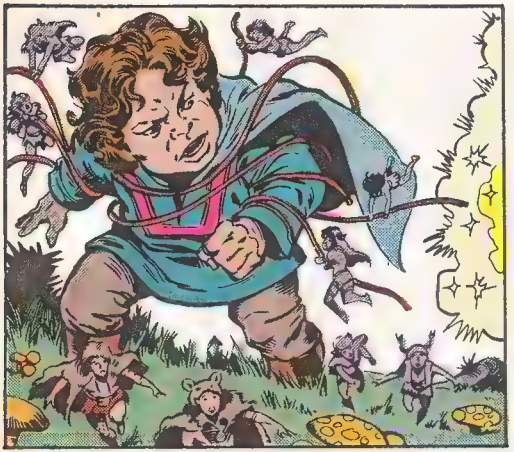
Well, everything that is except **Willow Ufgood** himself. Which is unfortunate for this small Nelwyn farmer who yearns to become a sorcerer. The good-hearted hero is about to embark on a mystical journey that will take him through the mist-shrouded island of Fin Raziel, down the treacherous enchanted ice-slopes of Nockmaar, and straight into the cursed crystalline Asleen Castle. Willow's flight into fear and fantasy begins when he discovers an abandoned child adrift on the riverbank near his village. He soon learns his role as baby-sitter could shift the balance of power between Good and Evil and affect the lives of every living being in the world.

But despite such threats as the aforementioned Death Dogs, the savage warrior race of the **Daikini**, or the vile military chieftan, **General Kael**, Willow and his charge are in good hands. Those hands belonging, of course, to the movie's producer, **George Lucas**, director **Ron Howard**, and screenwriter **Bob Doiman** (based on a story by Lucas) during his celluloid adventures, while writer **Jo Duffy**, penciler **Bob Hall** and inker **Romeo Tanghal** have chronicled the Graphic Novel adaptation, on sale now. Also on sale is the WILLOW Limited Series which divides the Graphic Novel into three parts and which features new text and splash pages by Jo, Bob, and Romeo.

This mystical saga begins "A long time ago, in a mythical land..."

The evil sorceress, **Queen Bavmorda**, rules her kingdom and the surrounding lands through a campaign of terror. When an ancient prophecy reveals that a child be born—a young infant branded with a strange mark upon her arm—Bavmorda's days of undisputed tyranny are numbered. In an effort to maintain her status quo, the evil queen plans to destroy the baby in an arcane ritual high atop the sorceress's castle. A compassionate midwife risks all on behalf of the child, setting the infant **Elora Danan** adrift on the river towards safety. This prompts an enraged Bavmorda to order her own warrior daughter, **Sorsha**, to track down and slay the infant before the prophecies can come to pass

Fortunately for most everyone involved, Willow stumbles across the child along the riverbanks. The appearance of the apparantly aban-



doned infant helps take Willow's mind off his failed attempt at becoming the apprentice of his village's resident wise man and sorcerer. Almost immediately, the vicious **Voohnkar** and his Death Dogs attack the small farming village in search of Willow's young charge. The town's elders decide it would be best if Willow turned the child over to "the dreaded humans" and be done with her—let the forces of Good and Evil battle somewhere else other than the land of Nelwyn. Along the way to the land of humans, this frustrated mage turned child-care worker garners a supporting cast to rival his fellow celluloid traveler, **Dorothy Gale** of Kansas.

First and foremost is the sword-wielding human, **Medmardigan**, from his first appearance as a ragged and starving captive in a swinging cage dangling over the forbidding Daikini crossroads. His rogue warrior's relationship with Willow can be described as "strained" at best.

Getting along with the little hero to a greater degree is the good sorceress, **Fin Raziel.** She's the only mage with enough power to oppose the evil queen, but Bavmorda has transformed her adversary into a possumlike creature and exiled Fin Raziel to an enchanted island. There she must depend on the underdeveloped magical abilities of Willow to return her to her original form as a human being. When the hero's first attempt transforms her into a black-winged raven, things look bleak...

Willow can't be blamed for being distracted though, considering his entourage rounds out with two nine-inch tall brownies, the antagonistic **Franjean,** and the simpleminded **Drool.** Since brownies are renowned for their penchant for troublemaking, this eagle-riding duo is more often a hindrance than a help.

The one bright spot, literally, throughout Willow's quest, is the beautiful fairy queen, **Cherlindrea**, who appears as shards of glowing light. She explains that Elora Danan is the "daughter of the sun and moon" who is destined to destroy Bavmorda. Because the child has chosen Willow as her guardian, Cherlindrea sees fit to bestow upon him the fairy queen's magic wand. Unfortunately, as inept in the ways of magic as he is, Willow accidently uses it to create his own worst enemy—a two-headed, fire-breathing moat monster!

Though Willow's adventures officially begin on the small farm where he lives with his wife and two children, it would be fair to suggest that it all began "A long time ago, in a galaxy far far away..."

For the dozen or so people not familiar with that opening line, it was the phrase that captured the imaginations of millions in 1977 when a young George Lucas redefined science-fiction films with the release of "Star Wars." Lucas later teamed up with Steven Spielberg in 1981 to produce the first installment of the **Indiana Jones** series, "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

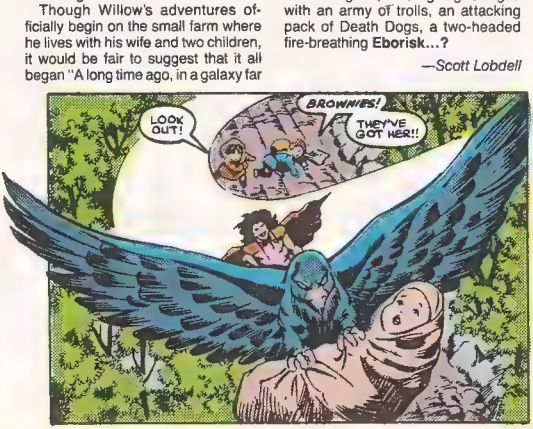
"Because the people at Lucasfilm are so supportive, providing us with tons and tons of movie references, we've managed to be very faithful to the films we've adapted," explains Special Projects Editor **Bob Budiansky.** Besides the "Star Wars" and "Raiders" movies, Marvel has adapted "Howard The Duck" as well as the Lucas/**Jim Hensen** co-production of "Labyrinth."

Part of Lucas's support of Marvel's creative team for WILLOW came in the summer of 1987 when Bob the editor joined **Bob Hall** the artist at the legendary Marin County, California complex of Lucasfilm Limited. There they viewed a ten minute "rough" of the "Willow" film and took a tour of the facilities. The two were even privy to some of the paraphernalia and special effects used in the movie.

Although "Willow" doesn't highlight the use of special effects as intensively as "Star Wars" (and in fact relies more heavily on the in-depth characterization of such previous Ron Howard-directed movies as "Cocoon" and "Splash") the prediction is that this film will do for the fantasy genre what "Star Wars" did for science fiction and "Raiders Of The Lost Ark" did for pulp adventure.

And after all, with the exception of Willow Ufgood, who's going to argue with an army of trolls, an attacking pack of Death Dogs, a two-headed fire-breathing **Eborisk...?**

—Scott Lobdell



EPIC SPOTLIGHT

THE INCAL TM and © 1988 Alexandro Jodorowsky and Moebius.

THE INCAL™

You say you're looking for a tale of adventure and galaxy spanning intrigue? You say you're in the mood for a well-crafted yarn set in a future world that might even turn out to be your own? You say you want an intelligent story that makes you think, not to mention delicate but powerful artwork by one of the world's top comics illustrators?

Well, meet **John DiFool**. John's a down-at-the-heels private investigator living in the far future. His luck has

never been very good, but it takes some of its strangest turns yet when he suddenly finds himself running for his life, all thanks to the **Incal**!

What is the Incal, you ask?

It's a crystal that could fit in the palm of your hand.

It's an object of vast and wondrous power.

It's the center of a galaxy-wide power struggle.

And now, through no fault of his own, it's John DiFool's!

You might think that somebody like John would like having some power for a change. But considering that the Incal has been responsible for John's being chased, shot at, and even torn into four elemental parts, well, John would've been just as happy without it! Even with the help of his talking bird, **Deepo**, it's not going to be easy for John to survive.

THE INCAL is the latest in Epic Comics' series of English translations of the work of masterful French illustrator **Jean Giraud** (you might know him better as **"Moebius"**). But while THE INCAL may be like Epic's other Moebius Graphic Novels in that it's intended for mature readers, it also differs from those other novels in several important respects.

For one thing, THE INCAL is not the work of Moebius alone. Although Moebius has produced the stunning art for THE INCAL, the project is actually a collaboration between him and writer **Alexandro Jodorowsky**. Jodorowsky is probably best known as a filmmaker, the man responsible for movies such as EL TOPO, THE HOLY MOUNTAIN, and TUSK. In fact, a movie was responsible for Moebius meeting Jodorowsky, back when they were both working on the science-fiction epic, DUNE! The two hit it off, and it wasn't long before THE INCAL started to become a reality!

As you might expect from a collaboration between two men who've worked extensively in film, THE INCAL has a heavily cinematic atmosphere. "It has sort of a BLADE RUNNERish feel," INCAL editor **Margaret Clark** observed, adding that it makes sense since the film BLADE RUNNER was based on Moebius's designs. This approach to THE INCAL gives it a somewhat different feel than previous graphic novels have had. "It's completely separate from the other Moebius Graphic Novels," Margaret said.

Besides the difference in approach, THE INCAL also differs from previous Moebius Graphic Novels in that it's a whole lot longer! THE INCAL will be made up of not one but *three* full graphic novels, each between 96 and 120 pages long!

Actually, when Les Humanoides Associes first started to publish THE INCAL in France back in 1980, each graphic novel was published as two smaller installments of the story. But only the first two parts of the six-part saga have ever been translated into English! Now, though, that will change, thanks to the linguistic skills of translators **Jean-Marc** and **Randy Lofficier**. At last, American audiences will get the chance to thrill to the tale that's been taking France by storm for the last eight years!

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the Epic edition of THE INCAL is that because Les Humanoides Associes plans to publish the long-awaited conclusion to the story this year, French and American audiences should get to witness the thrilling climax to the story at the same time!

That's right! The French may have been waiting eight years to reach the resolution of THE INCAL, but you'll get to experience the entire saga in the space of a few short months. And just to make sure that even that much suspense isn't too much for you, the INCAL Graphic Novels will be coming to your local comics specialty shop every single month! What's it like trying to get an eight-year project ready for publication in the space of a few months? "It should get me a room at Bellevue!" Margaret laughs.

So why not check out THE INCAL? After all, even if you ignore its action, thrills, and hordes of bizarre characters, how often do you get to see a graphic novel that might just send an editor to an insane asylum?

—Sholly Fisch

THE MARVEL AGE 1977 —PART III

This month we're surveying the exploits of solo super heroes in the Marvel Universe of 1977—and though many heroes got their share of the action, the predominant hero of the year was that li'l ol' web-spinner, **Spider-Man!** With his adventures being published in THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, the newly-released PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, and the ever-exciting MARVEL TEAM-UP, (not to mention the reprints in MARVEL TALES), there was little doubt that, no matter what the Chinese calendar may have said, 1977 was definitely the Year of the Spider!

A multi-part tale involving the **Kingpin** reached its climax as the year began for AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: **Wilson Fisk** was desperately trying to rejuvenate his ailing son, **Richard**, and he stole a small portion of Spidey's life-force to do it! (Do you suppose the man who became the **Rose** realizes that he owes his life to Spidey?) Next came the return of **Stegron, the Dinosaur Man**—and when **Curt Connors** entered the scene, as the lethal **Lizard**, the scales were really tipped against ol' Web-head! (Scales, get it—? Sorry, couldn't resist.) Two significant new characters made their debuts: **Will o' The Wisp**, the enigmatic hero-villain controlled by **Dr. Jonas Harrow**; and **Dr. Maria Madison**, the woman scientist who would meet **Jonah Jameson** in connection with the development of a new **Spider-Slayer**, but who would go on to become Jolly Jonah's own bride! Jonah added further tension to Pete's life with his discovery of photos which showed Spider-Man disposing of his clone's body (back in 1975's issues)—to JJJ, it was incontrovertible proof that Spider-Man had killed **Peter Parker**, and was now impersonating the young photographer! It took some fast talking to clear JJJ's mind of that outlandish notion—then it was off to battle a passel of new and old super-villains! **Dr. Faustus** provided Spidey some of his special psychological warfare; the new young hero, **Nova**, teamed up with the amazing arachnid to defeat **Photon**; the **Rocket-Racer** burst onto the crime scene; and **Molten Man** returned to threaten **Harry Osborn's** wife, **Liz Allen!** This didn't do Harry too much good, and his beginning visits to psychologist **Bart Hamilton** would soon do him more harm than good! Meanwhile, a three-way struggle between Spidey, the **Punisher**, and the **Hitman** capped the year, with a climactic rescue sequence (JJJ was the Hitman's kidnap victim) high atop the Statue of Liberty! If you missed this saga the first time around, don't worry! It's just been reprinted in MARVEL TALES. In fact, the climactic last part is on sale now—and it sports a new cover by **Mike Zeck**!

SPIDER MAN
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
35¢
175
DEC
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
HANG ON TO JAMESON, WEB-SLINGER! THE PUNISHER WILL SAVE YOU BOTH!
BUT WHO'S GOING TO SAVE YOU, HERO-- FROM THE VENGEANCE OF THE HITMAN!
AND WITH MY INJURED ARM, I CAN'T SAVE ANY OF US!

Over in PETER PARKER, the action was just beginning, as that book's second issue featured another multiple-threat: both **Kraven** and the **Tarantula! Lightmaster** dazzled us all with his villainous powers, and the **Vulture** terrorized the city—making him the target of the selfsame Hitman mentioned just a moment ago! On the subplot front, **Sha Shan** was mysteriously hiding from **Flash Thompson**, and **Glory Grant** started work as JJJ's secretary—though the job reference didn't help her when she was abducted by **Morbius, the Living Vampire!** Morbius was the helpless tool of the **Empatheld**, an extraterrestrial whom Spidey helped to drive off. Then, the **White Tiger**, comics' first Puerto Rican hero, made his first color comics appearance! **Medusa** also popped in, making PETER PARKER a serious rival to MARVEL TEAM-UP! And the mysterious cult of **Brother Power** and **Sister Sun** was unearthed at year's end, explaining Sha Shan's disappearances!

We'll save MARVEL TEAM-UP for the next month, when we look at 1977's super-teams; in the meantime, what about Spidey's close friend, DAREDEVIL? **Bullseye** was back to menace **DD** twice that year; his second visit saw the debut of the **Shooter/Kane/Janson** team aboard Horn-head's book! The **Cobra** and **Mr. Hyde**, DD foes from way back, returned for the two-parter, and other old sparring partners filled out the year: **Man-Bull**, the **Owl**, and the **Death-Stalker!** DD's personal life was no bed of roses, either; **Maxwell Glenn**, father of Matt's girlfriend,

Heather, was found guilty of kidnaping Foggy's wife, **Deborah Harris**—and though he didn't commit the crime, he was under the control of **Killgrave, the Purple Man**, who was making him take the fall! As Jim Shooter moved the adventures of the Man Without Fear forward into next year, bigger shocks would be coming, fast and furious!

The sentinel of liberty, CAPTAIN AMERICA, was under the helm of writer/artist /co-creator **Jack Kirby** for much of 1977, until writer **Roy Thomas** assumed the reins at year's end. During Kirby's tenure, fantastic adventure was the watchword, as **Cap** and the **Falcon** tackled the time-lost menace of **Agron**, and Cap traveled to South America to defeat the petty dictator known as the **Swine**! There he worked with the beautiful **Donna Maria**—good thing **Sharon Carter** wasn't around to see! S.H.I.E.L.D. had sent Sharon on an espionage mission to unravel the secret of File 116: monsters popping up in isolated locales across the Earth. Behind File 116 was the same man Cap and Donna Maria discovered in the South American wilds: **Arnim Zola**, the Bio-Fanatic! Arnim's first few biological experiments included the androids, **Doughboy** and **Primus**, but his greatest plan was still to come: **Nazi-X**, a superpowerful android who would carry **Hitler's** brain and **Steve Rogers'** face! Behind Arnim Zola was yet another power: the **Red Skull!** Cap managed to win through, but not without being temporarily blinded—and while disabled, he and Falc dealt with the assassin known as the **Night Flyer**! When Roy Thomas took over, Cap explored a different, more psychological storyline: who was Steve Rogers, anyway? Steve realized he had no memories of his life prior to the momentous Super-Soldier experiment—his quest for his past would now be the storyline for his future!

Marvel's other Captain—CAPTAIN MARVEL—was not reflecting on his past, but rather trying to build a new life on Earth! Sadly, those nasty Kree kept getting in the way...first the **Sentry** (accompanied by the ferocious **Cheetah**), then **Ronan, the Accuser**, and then Kree scientists, **Mac-Ronn** and **Tara**! The two researchers were trying to halt the Kree disease called the Virus of the Spirit, but they themselves fell victim to its madness, resulting in the death of Tara! The **Adaptoid** and the **Avengers** made for an action-packed 50th issue, and long-lost characters filled the next: **Mercurio, the 4-D Man**, battled **Mar-Vell**, and **Rick Jones** was reunited with the original **Teen Brigade**! But two issues had passed without any Kree in sight, and that couldn't go on: **Dr. Minerva** came to Earth on an unrevealed mission; **Phae-Dor**, blue-skinned Kree powerhouse, skirmished with the good Captain; and the War of the Three Galaxies threatened to envelop the Earth! Only Mar-Vell, working together with **Black Bolt** of the **Inhumans**, managed to stave off disaster!

Speaking of Avengers (we just were, weren't we?), **Iron Man** had his hands full in '77! **Commander Kraken** discovered **Tony Stark's** secret identity, only to "die"; **Ultimo** returned to wreak havoc; and **Mike O'Brien** donned the **Guardsman** armor to gain vengeance against Tony for the death of his brother! Tony and Mike made amends, but a mystery remained: who had reactivated the android, **Ultimo**? The answer was Iron Man's perennial foe, the **Mandarin**, whose battle with Tony would involve the Guardsman and even **Sunfire** before reaching its climax in Shell-Head's hundredth issue! Scripter **Bill Mantlo** continued to keep the surprises coming, as Iron Man next battled the **Frankenstein Monster** and the **Dreadknight**, heir to the winged horse of the original **Black Knight**! Then, a multi-issue epic began, as the long-gone **Midas** returned to buy out Stark International! Returning S.H.I.E.L.D. liaison, **Jasper Sitwell**, secretary, **Krissy Longfellow, Jack of Hearts**, the Guardsman, the **Wraith**, the traumatized psychic **Marianne Rodgers**, **Nick Fury**...all these characters and more became involved in one of Tony's greatest crises! Krissy revealed herself as Tony's long lost love, **Madame Masque**, and in the face of the loss of his holdings, Stark and **Whitney** tried to retreat from the world into their own private haven! Could Nick and his unexpected allies jar Tony into action before it became too late to stop Midas?

The Mighty **Thor** and the Aegardian warriors continued their intergalactic quest for **Odin**, encountering **the Stone Men from Saturn** (from Thor's very first story, remember?), the monstrous **Sporr**, and the **Gargoyle**! The **Recorder** joined them on their odyssey, which brought them finally to the Doomsday Star, in a tale drawn by new THOR artist, **Walt Simonson**! While **Balder** kept the throne of Asgard safe from the **Enchantress** and the **Executioner**, Thor and his comrades faced the unearthly threat of the **Soul-Survivors**, who turned Odin's own life force into a deadly weapon against them! Rescuing their liege, the warriors returned home—only to face the power of **Loki** and the **Destroyer**! Only Odin's power could put things right again for the Realm Eternal!

Besides their solo adventures, Avengers could pop up in the strangest of places—as, for example, the guest appearance of **Hawkeye** and the **Two-Gun Kid** in GHOST RIDER! Future Avenger **Dr. Druid** also appeared in **Johnny Blaze's** book, as did such nasties as the **Enforcer**, the **Water Wizard, Malice**, and the **Manticore! Ghost Rider's** stories were more heroic than supernatural this year, dovetailing with his membership, in the super-team, the **Champions**.

A different super-team, the **Defenders**, made life rough for the HULK as 1977 began; ol' Green-Skin was on a rampage, grieving for his lost **Jarella**, and only his Defending team-

males could calm him! As **Bruce Banner** resumed control, he decided to start running his life again, and took a room with lovely landlord **April Sommers**. But the Hulk was always called upon: to battle the **Absorbing Man**, to team with Dr. Druid against the **Mahu Yogi** and his gladiatorial stooge, **Mongu**, and to stop the **Constrictor** from killing his friend, **Jim Wilson**! After these bouts with the forces of evil, it then became time for the forces of good to turn on the Hulk, as he battled the **Quintronic Man**, Jack of Hearts, and the forces of S.H.I.E.L.D.! The super-apes faced a more deadly threat, though, in the form of the **Bi-Beast**, and so the Hulk polished him off in short order, and foiled the plans of the **Ringmaster** for good measure! A **Doc Samson/Rhino** duel closed out the Hulk's year.

Marvel's newest hero, NOVA, got a nifty idea in '77—why not make his name as a super hero by getting he own Marvel Comic? The creative staff of Marvel '77 were guest stars in NOVA #5, as **Nova, the Living Rocket** took on **Tyrannus**! The **Sphinx** moved to pre-eminence as Nova's greatest foe, involving him with the sinister **Condor**, **Diamond-head**, and **Powerhouse**! The faceless foe, **Megaman**, uncle of Nova alter-ego **Rich Rider's** best friend, provided more action, as did the two-part team-up with Spider-Man against the killer called **Photon**! The **Crime-Buster** became a new supporting character, as Nova protected his friend, **Mike Burley**, against the **Sandman**. And Nick Fury brought Nova into play against the omnipresent menace of the **Yellow Claw**!

LUKE CAGE, POWER MAN, also found himself caught in larger wars, as he tried to quell the gang combat between the **Baron**, **Big Brother**, and the **Cheshire Cat**! The superfast **Thunderbolt** joined **Luke** against the **Goldbug**, but there was no help for Luke against his toughest foe: the IRS! If they investigated too closely, they'd discover Luke was an ex-con on the run—and so Luke escaped to Chicago, where he ran into his old foe, **Gideon Mace**! Could the bomb that Mace set to destroy Chicago be found and defused in time? An encounter with **Zzaxx** followed, but the biggest news for Luke came at year's end, when **Iron Fist** entered the book! The machinations of **Bushmaster** caused Luke to attack **Misty Knight** and combat **Danny Rand**—but as writer **Chris Claremont** and artist **John Byrne** had it planned, when it was all over, a new team would be born!

But wait! We've neglected to clue you in on the ANNUALS of all these solo superguys! In another Kirby Klassic, Cap defeated **Magneto** and his **new Brotherhood of Evil Mutants**! Iron Man teamed with the Champions to trounce **Modok**! Spider-Man battled a small army of hideous Spider-things! Thor joined with the **Guardians of the Galaxy** against the cyborg, **Korvac**! And the Hulk was witness to the birth of **Paragon**—later to become known only as—**Her**!

Next month: **the Bride of Ultron!** The Death of **Adam Warlock**! The Coming of the **Starjammers**! It's Marvel's Super-Teams of '77! Be there! (Enough hardsell for you?)

—Brian Nelson

MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Folks are used to thinking that back issues of any comic cost an arm and a leg nowadays — but it's not always true! Here's what the Marvel masterworks we covered this month should run you if you seek them out at your local comics specialty shop. As always, our sorce is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #17. But remember: this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be even less for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION		
	Good	Fine	Mint
■ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN**			
164–173		.50	1.00
174–175 (**Punisher** g.a.)	.70	2.00	4.00
ANNUAL 11	.30	.80	1.60
■ **CAPTAIN AMERICA AND THE FALCON**			
205–216		.30	.60
ANNUAL 4		.60	1.20
■ **CAPTAIN MARVEL**			
48, 50		.40	.80
49 (**Starlin** in part)		.40	1.00
51–53		.30	.60
■ **DAREDEVIL**			
141–149		.60	1.20
■ **GHOST RIDER**			
22 27		.60	1.20
■ **INCREDIBLE HULK**			
207–218, **ANNUAL 6**		.50	1.00
■ **IRON MAN**			
94–99, 101–105	.25	.75	1.50
100	.60	1.80	3.60
ANNUAL 4	.25	.80	1.60
■ **NOVA**			
5–10		.35	.70
11–16		.25	.50
■ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN**			
2–5	.45	1.40	2.80
6–10	.40	1.25	2.50
11–12	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **POWER MAN (LUKE CAGE)**			
39–47		.50	1.00
48 (**Byrne art; Iron Fist** g.a.)	.50	1.50	3.00
■ **THOR**			
255–266, **ANNUAL 6**		.40	.80

WE KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE, WE CAN HEAR YOU

BREATHING...

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016

This month's swingin' letter column title comes to us courtesy of Lee Barnett of London, England. Thanks a lot, Lee! But you know, there's just one small problem with the title—we don't want our many undead friends out there to feel left out! Maybe we should have made the title "We Can Hear You Breathing or Not As the Case May Be..."

And while everyone's contemplating that little bit of amazing fair-mindedness, you might also want to give some thought to this: We need a bigger, better, and newer title for this column every single month. So if you've got any ideas, don't be shy—send 'em on in! If we use your title, we'll even print your name in this space as our way of saying "thanks!" (But do us a favor, huh? Don't let it get around what swell guys we are. After all, we have an image to protect.)

Dear Gentlemen,

I am writing to ask if there are any plans for another MEPHISTO Limited or Unlimited Series. I have already added the first four-issue Limited Series to my vast collection of Marvel Comics. I thought the story was exquisite. **Mephisto** is definitely the ultimate incarnation of evil in the Marvel Universe, and I would like to see more of his evil in the future.

Matt Gutknecht
48 Graceful La.
Levittown, PA 19055

And so you will, Matt! We've got definite plans for a new series guest-starring Mephisto. It'll be called LONGSHOT, and if you think that means it's going to pit the master of evil against everybody's favorite incredibly lucky X-Man, well, give yourself a gold star! And just for good measure, we're throwing in lots of other familiar faces from around the Marvel Universe too! Stay tuned to future issues of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE for more details.

Also, if that doesn't satisfy your appetite for new Mephisto stories, you might want to check out the SILVER SURFER hardcover Graphic Novel on sale now. Not only does it feature Mephisto trying once again to steal the Surfer's soul, but it's plotted and illustrated by John Buscema and scripted by Stan Lee—the men who brought Mephisto to the Marvel Universe in the first place! Is that service or what?

Dear MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE,

In MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE ANNUAL #3's "Marvel A to Z" section last year, your reporter, **Mr. Zimmerman**, talked about a new series entitled SEMPER FI. Just one question: When's it coming out?

Bing Chow
836 Union St.
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V6A 2L4

Well, Bing, if you checked out the "Marvel A to Z" section in this year's MARVEL AGE ANNUAL, you know that we haven't given up our plans for SEMPER FI. In fact, next issue, we'll be previewing it! The first issue should be coming your way this August. And before the series is over, its going to take a good look at the United States Marine Corps from its inception in the 1700s all the way up to the present day. If you've been keeping up with the 'NAM, you won't want to miss it!

Dear people at Marvel Comics,

I was sitting at home the other day and was thinking, "Hey, I wonder what all the super heroes would do if for one whole day, nothing went wrong, no super-villain threatened to take over the world, and they just generally had nothing better to do?"

So what would they do?

Kory J. Strudthoff
Box 164
Beemer, NE 68716

Gee, we dunno, Kory. What would people in the real world do if for one whole day, there was no crime or war or anything?

They'd probably go out for pizza.

Dear Marvel,

What would happen if **Colossus** grew a beard or moustache? Would it turn to organic metal also? If so, wouldn't it be a plus to just have stubble so that he'd have spikes on his face?

Well?

Until **Wolverine's** claws turn to limburger, Make Mine Marvel!

Tony Harder
6044 E. Desert Cove
Scottsdale, AZ 85254

Interesting suggestion, Tony. Considering that Colossus's hair turns to metal when he does, it's likely that the same would hold true for his beard and moustache.

But while it might be strategically better for Colossus to give up shaving for a while, we're not sure he'd really want to. To tell you the truth, ol' Peter strikes us as too nice a guy to want to slash people with his face.

Still, though, he must have to change razor blades pretty darn often!

What time is it when an elephant sits on your fence? Time for the LETTER OF THE MONTH, of course!

Ha ha ha...It's all in the timing.

Anyway, it is indeed time for this issue's Letter of the Month. Each month, we search through our bushels of mail and select a letter (or on rare occasion, two letters) that we think will be of special interest to the ranks of Marveldom. Then we print it against a fashionable yellow background, as befits its merit and stature.

This issue's Letter of the Month should be of particular interest to anyone who's ever written a letter to Marvel Comics:

Dear Marvel Comics,

I am writing to you today to ask a serious question. I have written ten letters to you before this one, and this is what has happened: Not one was published, not one was a No-Prize winner, and not one was answered by you people. I have left my return address on the envelope and letter every time. So my question is...Do you respond to your fan mail???

If you don't get this letter, it will be a waste of my time, and if I don't get a response within two or three months, I will be severely miffed. I know, such strong, violent words, but I mean it!!!

Well, until the **Hulk** and the **She-Hulk** get married and have some baby Hulkies, Make Mine Marvel!

Craig Martin
1294 Gatehouse Dr.
Mississauga, Ontario
Canada L5H 1A5

We're really sorry if you're miffed, Craig, but don't take it personally. As we've said so many times before, even if all we did was answer mail all day, there still wouldn't be enough time to reply to all of it individually! MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE alone gets hundreds of letters each month. And while we love to hear from you (so keep it up, hear?), that's just too many letters for us to answer personally.

However, please, please, pleeeeaasse don't think this means that we don't read all of our mail! We read each and every letter and pay the utmost attention to what you have to say. Your letters are extremely important to us; after all, they show us what you think about what we're doing.

So keep those cards and letters coming in! We're waiting to hear from you.

Whoops! Looks like the bottom of the page snuck up on us yet again. There's just enough space left to introduce you to a new batch of MARVEL CORRESPONDENTS, those friendly folks from around the world who are looking for pen pals to swap news, views, and snews with!

And if you want to know "What's snew," all we can say is "What's snew with you!" Ha ha ha...how do we do it?

Before we get too carried away, we also want to remind you that you can be listed in this space yourself by simply sending your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics to Marvel Correspondents at the address atop this column.

And now, on to the correspondents! Pick out a couple and drop 'em a line. They'll love to hear from you!

Ross Edmonson
Rt. 1 Box 258-A
Alpena, AR 72611
Age: 19
Favorites: AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, X-FACTOR, STAR BRAND

Jeff Hall
12010 Duckbill Dr.
Midlothian, VA 23113
Age: 15
Favorites: THE NEW MUTANTS, STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI, PSI FORCE

Danny Acuna
4601 S. Harrison #135
Las Vegas, NV 89121
Age: 16
Favorites: X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, DAREDEVIL

Billy Davis
4220 S. 6400 W
Salt Lake City, UT 84120
Age: 14
Favorites: X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, FANTASTIC FOUR

Kyle Jones-Bey
PO Box 180
Frederica, DE 19946
Age: 16
Favorites: X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, WEST COAST AVENGERS

Matthew Percy
10220 - 132nd St.
Edmonton, Alberta
CANADA T5N 1Y7
Age: 14
Favorites: X-FACTOR, X-MEN, DAREDEVIL

Zachary Cripe
1500 Parkiane Dr.
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722
Age: 12
Favorites: X-MEN, FANTASTIC FOUR, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

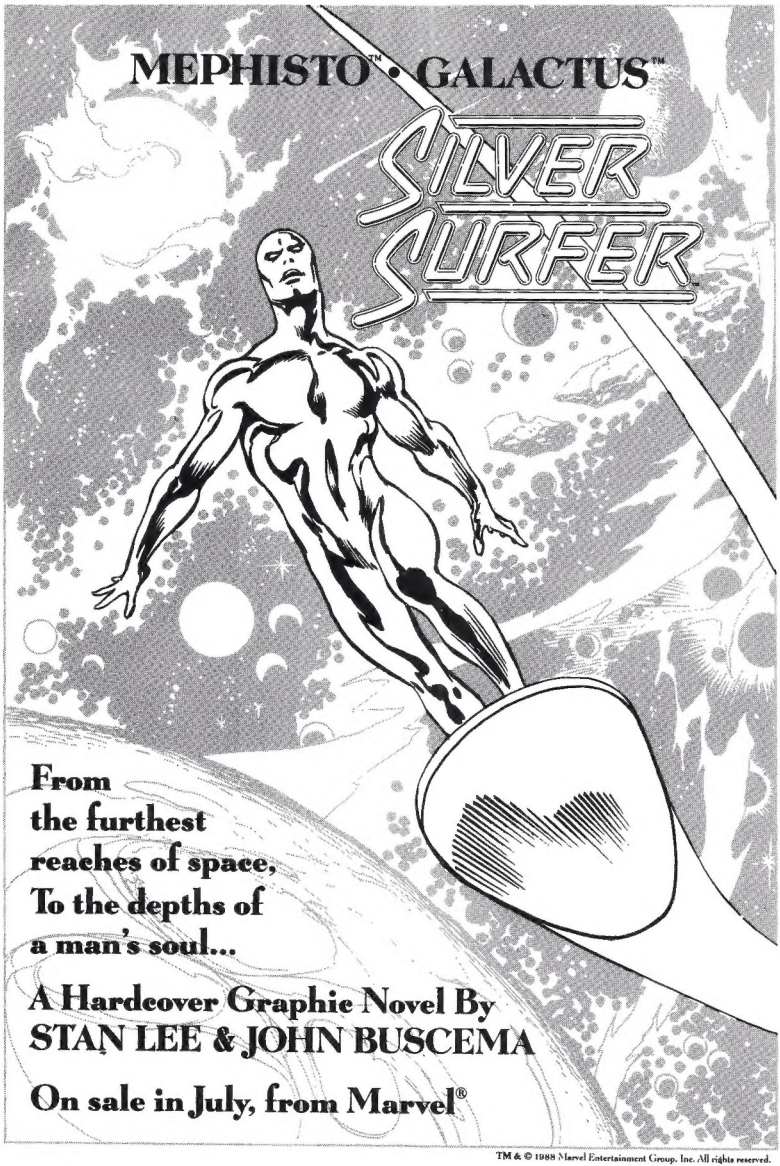
Eugene Yee
242 Fayette St.
Quincy, MA 02170
Age: 17
Favorites: AVENGERS, WEST COAST AVENGERS, X-FACTOR

Clint Mattoon
PO Box 170
Woodbridge, VA 22194
Age: 13
Favorites: X-MEN, G.I. JOE, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Brian Cronin
761 Norman Pl.
Westfield, NJ 07090
Age: 12
Favorites: GROO, STAR BRAND, D.P.7

ANSWERS TO MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

1. Sub-Mariner, Punisher, Shadowcat, Wolverine.
2. **Bruce Ayres.**
3. **Deluvia.**
4. **Vicki White.**
5. **Bedlam.**
6. **Katie Power.**
7. **Lord Dark Wind.**
8. **Ogun.**
9. Wolverine.
10. **Dr. Dorcas.**
11. **The Trust.**
12. The **Bruno Costa** family of the Maggia.
13. **Jigsaw.**
14. **Virago.**
15. **Weapon X.**
16. **Karthon the Quester.**
17. The **Jackal.**
18. **Destiny.**
19. **Llyra.**
20. Llyra.



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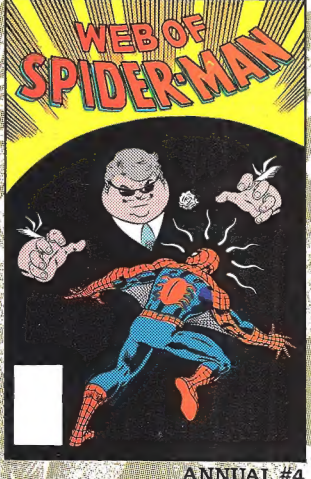
ANNUAL #12

ANNUAL #3



ANNUAL #4

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